

World leaders mourn Gandhi's death

Continued from page 1

In a report from the Indian capital, the Soviet News Agency TASS called the shooting villainous. China's communist government said it was shocked.

Pakistani President Zia Ul-Haq sent a letter to the Indian government expressing deep shock and horror at the shooting on behalf of the government and people of Pakistan, which has fought several wars with India.

In Washington President Ronald Reagan Wednesday expressed his shock, revulsion and grief over the brutal assassination of Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

"Her senseless murder serves as a vivid reminder of the terrorist threat we all confront," Reagan said.

The White House announced Reagan would visit the Indian embassy here Wednesday to sign the official book of condolences and express his sorrow to India's ambassador to the United States, Mr. K Shankar Rajpai.

Meanwhile more than a million expatriate Indian workers took to their embassies along the oil-rich gulf region Wednesday to offer condolences over the assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

Many were in terms, eulogizing the deceased leader as a great person, a leader who gave India esteem in the world of non-alignment.

Sheiks, princes and prime ministers of the six-nation Gulf co-operation Council (GCC) were reported to have sent messages of condolence to India.

It is a vile, despicable aggression, said the Emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmed Al-Sabah, in his message to Indian President Giani Zail Singh.

Kuwait's minister of state for cabinet affairs, Abdel-Aziz Hussein, said the assassination came as a shock to us. The world has lost a distinguished leader, he told reporters. "She was one of the top leaders of the non-aligned nations movement. Kuwait and the rest of the Arab world will miss in her a great leader who had shown deep understanding of Arab problems and Third World issues."

Flags atop Indian embassies were half-masted, while expatriate Indian workers huddled in large numbers at road intersections in Bahrain, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia lamenting Gandhi's death.

Pope John Paul II on Wednesday strongly deplored the assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, saying the shooting was the latest in a chain of atrocities in the world. In remarks in Italian during his weekly general audience, the pope called the shooting a criminal act that caused horror and shock throughout the world.

In a statement released by the foreign ministry, China described Mrs Gandhi as an outstanding Statesman who tried to improve Indian-Chinese relations, strained for more than two decades.

In Cairo, Butros Ghali, Egypt's state minister for foreign affairs, said in a statement Mrs Gandhi's death was a great loss to the international community and all the noble principles underlying the non-aligned movement.



LONDON — SIKH LEADER — White bearded Dr Jagjit Singh, self styled President of the Republic of Khalistan, shown during a press conference in London in Jan. 1984, in which he made an assassination threat against Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. The conference was broadcast by BBC. Mrs Gandhi was assassinated in New Delhi, Wednesday, and Sikh extremists have claimed responsibility (AP Wirephoto)

Ministry of Public Works plans to construct new highway

By Maha Zababneh
Star Staff Writer

AMMAN — The Ministry of Public Works is planning to construct the 32 km portion of the highway near Dead Sea, which still remains incomplete at an estimated cost of JD 24 million. The project which is likely to be implemented next year will boost the importance of the highway as it links the far north with Aqaba connecting Suwayma, Al Zar, Al Mazraa and Alsai valley. The Minister of Public Works Dr Raef Najim told The Star this week that the studies and plans of the proposed project have been made and a decision has been taken to use the modern technology in constructing this part of the 363 km highway.

Dr Najim said the construction will involve building a number of tunnels inside the rocks and several bridges over the valleys. According to the plans nine bridges and seven tunnels, one of which has a length of 900 metres are to be constructed. "It is necessary to fill this gap in the highway, although it would be difficult since it is a rocky area along the Dead Sea," he said. The ventilation problem of the main tunnel will be solved by providing vertical air vents.

"Since there are no Jordanian companies specialized in this field of construction which is the first time to be applied in the area, we will resort to a foreign specialized company," the Minister said.

The overall cost of the project is estimated at JD 24 million. Several foreign and local companies have offered to finance the project. It will take at least 18 months to complete the highway when it is opened to traffic the distance between the north and the south will be reduced by 60 km. Only small cars will be allowed to use this highway while trucks will follow the desert line.

There is also an area along the road which constitutes a sand peninsula inside the Dead Sea which can be turned into an excellent tourist spot when the highway is completed," Dr Najim added. The highway will also serve the Jordan Valley area.

The five whom Sir Geoffrey met were the Mayor of Bethlehem, Mr Elias Freij, the Mayor of Gaza, Mr Rashad Ash-Shawwa, the Mayor of Rafah, Mr Ibrahim Tawil, Mr Hikmat Al-Masri of Nabulus and Dr Gabi Baragani, the acting dean of Bir Zeit University. Although the British acknowledged this group did not include representatives of more radical opinion in the occupied territories, the visit was a very important one. Mr Freij said it was no longer the time to talk about military or political solutions and he asked instead for aid to the Palestinians to rescue them from the "imported" Israeli inflation of almost a thousand per cent. Mr Ash-Shawwa supported this request and made the point that every Palestinian living under Israeli occupation was part and parcel of the PLO. Again Sir Geoffrey listened carefully and the Palestinian leaders said they were grateful for his attitude — and also for speaking up publicly about the settlement question.

Geoffrey Howe calls for freeze on settlements

By Lea Rockingham
Star London Correspondent

LONDON — Britain's Foreign Secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, flew home to London on Tuesday after a three-day visit to Israel which, remarkably, was judged a great success by both the Israeli coalition leaders and the prominent Palestinians Sir Geoffrey met.

Officials present during Sir Geoffrey's two meetings with Foreign Minister Shamir and his talks with the Prime Minister, Mr Shimon Peres, described the atmosphere as easy, open and friendly. They spoke of a convergence of views on many issues. And yet Sir Geoffrey did not pull his punches in an after dinner speech when he referred to the West Bank settlements and the need to associate the PLO with any Middle East peace negotiations.

"It must be said that the single most effective measure Israel could take to create confidence would be a freeze on settlements because that would make it plain to all that Israel has no intention of pre-

empting the outcome of negotiations about the long-term future of the territories," said Sir Geoffrey.

There was plain speaking on both sides. A major topic of the Anglo-Israeli talks was the impending withdrawal of Israeli troops from Southern Lebanon, which Sir Geoffrey had already discussed with President Gemayel during a swift helicopter visit to Beirut on Saturday last. The Israelis assured Sir Geoffrey that the withdrawal would go ahead, provided the necessary assurances could be gained from Syria. They then forcefully made the point that the arms embargo imposed by Britain and its European community partners at the time of the invasion of Lebanon two years ago should now be lifted. Sir Geoffrey listened carefully to their point of view and promised to consider the matter carefully.

Indeed, listening which is the Foreign Secretary's great forte was also the main point of his visit. He said that he had not gone to Israel either as a mediator or equipped with a blueprint, but simply to familiarise himself. His talks with the newly formed coalition government, however, will prove very useful in further dis-

cussions about the Arab-Israeli problem which may take place within the European community or between the Europeans and Americans, after next week's presidential elections. Although the Israeli leaders still adhere to the basis of the Camp David agreements for any future settlement, Sir Geoffrey detected more interest in the British view, there is a good chance of the Reagan plan being revived after the American elections.

The main achievement of the visit was the sealing of very much better relations between Britain and Israel than have existed for a number of years. Sir Geoffrey invited Mr Shamir to visit London and in the British view, there is a good chance of the Reagan plan being revived after the American elections. The main achievement of the visit was the sealing of very much better relations between Britain and Israel than have existed for a number of years. Sir Geoffrey invited Mr Shamir to visit London and in the British view, there is a good chance of the Reagan plan being revived after the American elections.

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Middle East awaits Reagan's move

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Ronald Reagan celebrated on Wednesday a 49-state landslide over Walter Mondale, saying "you ain't seen nothing yet." But many republicans were left on the sidelines as Democrats kept control of the House and trimmed the Republican majority in the Senate.

"What we've done only prepares us for what we're going to do," Reagan told exuberant supporters in Los Angeles Tuesday night as they chanted, "Four more years, four more years."

But opposition Democratic leader Thomas P. O'Neill Jr., re-elected to his two-year term, was quick to claim, "I don't think there was any mandate out there whatsoever."

Earlier, as Reagan watched state after state fall into his column, he told reporters that he believes it is time for a summit meeting with Soviet President Konstantin Chernenko "to try to clear the air and suspicions between us so we can get down to the business of reducing nuclear weapons."

"It's time for us to get together and talk about a great many things."

Reagan won 49 states with 525 electoral votes, Mondale won the District of Columbia with three electoral votes and was leading in his home state of Minnesota, with 10.

Reagan's electoral vote total was the highest in history, surpassing Franklin D. Roosevelt's 1936 total of 523 electoral votes.

In the popular vote, with 98 per cent of the nation's precincts reporting, Reagan had 51,773,890 for 59 per cent; Mondale had 35,901,699 for 41 per cent.

From the time the first vote totals began rolling in, it was clear that Mondale's dream of a presidential upset was not to be. Reagan was a big winner in state after state, and finally Mondale appeared before supporters in St. Paul, Minnesota, to say he had called the president to congratulate him.

He has won, said Mondale, weary but smiling after a grueling campaign. "We are all Americans; he is our president, and we honour him tonight."

Mondale's running mate, Geraldine Ferraro, was feisty even as she made history in a losing cause. The first woman nominated as a major party vice presidential candidate consoled her backers, telling them, American women will never be second-class citizens again.

The battle for control of Congress saw the Democrats picking up two Senate seats. Republicans entered the Senate with a 55 to 45 margin in the Senate.

In the House, the Democrats had won 253 seats; the Republicans had won or were leading for 182. The Democrats entered the election with a house majority of 267 to 168.

In the most closely watched Senate race, ultra-conservative Republican Jesse Helms of North Carolina fought back a tough challenge from Democratic Gov. James Hunt to win a third term.

The contest, in which Helms spent 14 million dollars and Hunt 8 million dollars, broke all spending records for a Senate race. Helms, who has accused Reagan of waverling from the hard line on arms control, was poised to take over as chairman of the prestigious Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

The current chairman, Republican Sen. Charles Percy, lost to Democratic Rep. Paul Simon. In a bitter campaign, Percy had been attacked on two fronts — by conservatives who regard him as too liberal and by Jews angered by what they viewed as his failure to support Israel.



Reagan smiles as he speaks to celebrating crowds Wednesday (AP photo)

In the 13 races for governor the Republicans were winners in four states previously held by Democrats, while two Republican incumbents lost to Democratic challengers.

Republican Mark Hatfield, who exerts great influence on US foreign aid as chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, easily won a fourth term. Hatfield has led opposition to the neutron bomb and MX nuclear missile, and introduced a resolution against the militarization of outer space.

The 1984 campaign was Reagan's final appeal for electoral support, and it proved his greatest electoral victory, surpassing the landslide vote by which he defeated Jimmy Carter in 1980.

"Tonight is the end of nothing," he told supporters. "It's the beginning of everything."

Declaring that history "will judge us honourably," Democratic presidential candidate Walter Mondale conceded defeat while his running mate, Geraldine Ferraro, applauded his victory in the battle for equal opportunity for women.

"I am at peace with the knowledge that I gave it everything I've got, Mondale said after watching the television networks report he had suffered an overwhelming

defeat at the hands of President Ronald Reagan.

Mrs Ferraro, at her own gathering of supporters in New York city ballroom, in turn praised Mondale for opening a door for women.

On the platform, Mondale was surrounded by his wife, Joan, sons William and Teddy and daughter Eleanor. As he spoke, supporters and staff members wept openly. Some embraced one another in the half-filled hall that had been prepared for a festive victory celebration which was never to be.

But as governments and politicians around the world congratulated president Reagan Wednesday on his re-election and many expressed hope his second term would lead to progress in disarmament, the Soviet bloc greeted Reagan's election with scepticism, saying that in Reagan's four years in office, he has not pursued disarmament nor nuclear arms limitation.

In Lebanon the Jihad Islami cited the election as it made a new threat to blow up all American interests in Beirut and elsewhere in Lebanon.

The threat, telephoned to a Beirut newspaper, was addressed to every American individual residing in Beirut on the occasion of Reagan's re-election. The shadowy Organization has claimed responsibility for several bloody suicide bombings of American installations in Lebanon.

Israel's Prime Minister Shimon Peres sent Reagan a telegram saying: "... your great and sincere friendship for Israeli democracy, and your own committed, consistent and persistent advocacy and pursuit of values we share are a source of strength."

Egypt's Foreign Minister, Esmat Abdel-Majid urged Reagan to lose no time in reactivating American peacemaking efforts in the Middle East.

We welcome his re-election which represents continuity in American policy and our look forward to the United States, under his leadership, playing a constructive role in pushing peace in the Middle East," he said. (Related stories on page 32)

King congratulates Reagan

AMMAN (Star) — His Majesty King Hussein sent a message to US President Ronald Reagan congratulating him on his landslide victory in the US presidential elections that won Mr Reagan a second four-year term at the White House. The message said:

"I was delighted to receive the news of your re-election to the high office of president of the United States."

"This overwhelming vote of confidence by the American people reflects their aspirations and well deserved trust in your person. At a time of international instability and increasing violence we hope that the United States, which has grown in strength during your first term of office, will develop the moral imperative inherent

in the history of its great leaders.

"It is only through your firm commitment to universally acknowledged principles that the international community of states will be inspired once again by the wise leadership of your great country. Your defence of the ideals and values we share, with their emphasis on human dignity for all, would be an invaluable and global championing of the cause of peace for mankind. This challenge, Mr president, is worthy of a man who stands tall on courage and principle."

"May God bless your efforts and crown them with success."

"Noor joins me in sending you and Mrs. Nancy Reagan our warmest personal wishes and best regards."

Masri expresses hope over re-election

AMMAN (Petra) — The Foreign Minister Mr Taher Al Masri expressed hope in the re-election of President Ronald Reagan and said this could mark the start of a re-assessment by the US administration of its Middle East policy especially the Palestine question.

The overwhelming victory by President Reagan, which emphasized the American freedom of choice in the face of pressures by groups attempting to reverse the American Middle East policy, will give the Reagan administration more freedom and

independence before those pressures, the minister told PETRA news agency.

"It is hoped that the US administration will initiate a new phase that will push the wheel of peace in the direction of a just and enduring one in the region," he said.

On the other hand, the minister added, there should be a consistent Arab endeavour to speed up the creation of an Arab stand capable of addressing and requesting the US administration to assist in enhancing efforts aimed at reaching a just and permanent solution to the problem of Palestine.

Soviet role important, King says

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein said that the US attitude to the Middle East conflict has deteriorated between 1956 and 1967, but has got even worse since 1967 until the US announced a strategic alliance with Israel. Hence, the US is not qualified at the present to play the role of a peace-making superpower because it is allied with a party in the conflict.

In an interview with "Al-Hawadeeth" in its edition to appear in London today the King said that the US role must be part of a group effort and "we must reach a stage in which a Soviet-American meeting is concluded. The picture should be expanded to include the five permanent members of the UN Security Council together with all respective parties including Palestinians, to solve the Palestine question," he said.

On Jordanian-Egyptian relations, the King expressed hope that the two countries will create a movement towards Arab unity.

On His Majesty's visit to Moscow, the King said: "If I am to visit Moscow in the near future, I will discuss armament and the Middle East problem. There is a candid and continuing dialogue with the Soviet Union."

On relations with Syria, the King said that differences with Syria started with Lebanon. "We supported Syrian intervention in Lebanon at a certain stage because we thought it will be temporary aimed at putting an end to bloodletting and to save Lebanon from division and disaster. When this and was not accomplished, a problem was created between us and Syria," he said.

The King reaffirmed that Jordan defends the Palestinian right to take their decisions freely and wishes to see the PLO deriving its strength from the Palestinians, but not from any other source.

"We act from our conviction to serve the Arab march," the King added.

inside



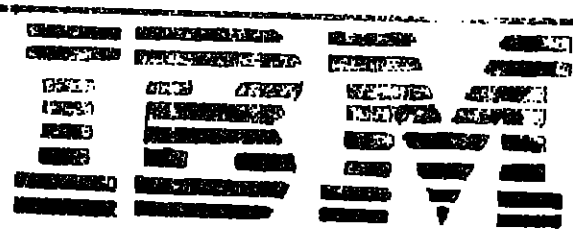
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Handwritten text in Arabic script, likely a signature or note.

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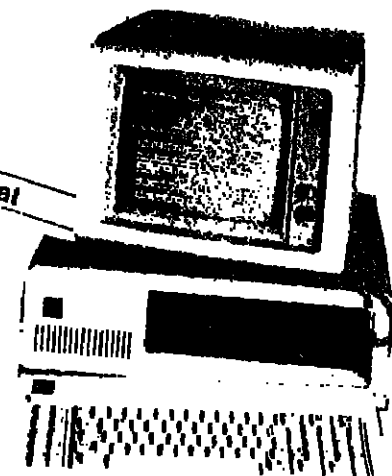
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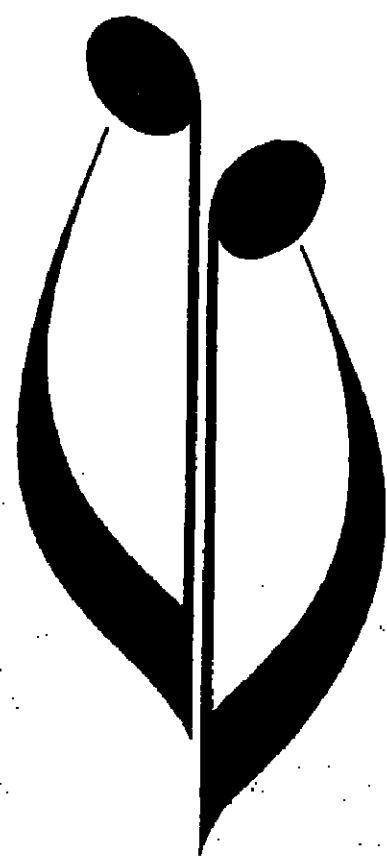
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TURKISH Foreign Minister Mr Vahit Halesoglu (centre) speaking to the press at the airport before departing on Thursday. On his right is Acting Foreign Minister Mr Taher Hikmat. (PETRA photo)

Turkish minister leaves Amman

AMMAN (Star) — Turkey's Foreign Minister Mr Vahit Halesoglu reiterated his country's positions from the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian rights. He was speaking to PETRA news agency before departing Amman on Thursday after a two-day visit to Jordan.

During his visit Mr Halesoglu held talks with Acting Foreign Minister Mr Taher Hikmat on bilateral relations and mutual co-operation. He said Turkey opposes Israel's settlement policies in the occupied Arab lands and called for self-determination for the Palestinians on their own lands.

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IN BRIEF

Municipal councils appointed

• THE CABINET has decided to set up two municipal committees in the towns of Sweileh and Jubaila. Sweileh committee is to be headed by Assistant of the Governor of Amman. Mr Mohammad AL Jariri and consists of 8 members.

The Jubaila committee is to be headed by the assistant administrator of Zarqa Mr Ahmad Abdallah AL Lawzi. and includes ten members from Jubaila residents.

The cabinet decision means that municipal elections will not be held in the two towns and the appointed councils will take over the running of the town's affairs for the coming two years. Reasons for this decision were not given, but unnamed sources say that such moves are taken when tribal differences and feuds are feared.

Airport taxi fares adjusted

• THE MINISTRY of Transport has decided to adjust the Queen Alia International Airport taxi fares to be as follows:

Starting fee JD 1.150 and adding to 10 fils to every 118 metres of distance and to every 48 seconds of waiting.

When renting an ordinary taxi car in Amman, the amount of JD 1 has to be added to the amount recorded by the car's metre. when the taxi is rented from any spot in Amman to go to the airport.

Urban Development gets land

• AL RA'I newspaper said that Amman Municipality committee has decided in its recent meeting to expropriate lands in Abu Alanda, Qwaimeh and Rusafa for urban development projects.

The committee has awarded tenders for the construction of stairs in Amman at the cost of JD 70,000.

The committee awarded another tender for "An-Nasr" children's park at the cost of JD 125,000.

1985 budget law prepared

• THE DIRECTOR of the budget department, Mr. Ali Al Ghaybeh, announced that the 1985 budget project law has been prepared and will be submitted to the specialised consultative committee soon. The committee includes the ministers of finance, industry, planning and president of the National Planning Council, the governor of the Central Bank and the director of the Audit Bureau.

The 1985 budget runs a little above that of current year which came to JD 770 million, the director added.

He said that recent cabinet reshuffle will not affect the date of submitting the project to the government before the 15th of this month, pointing out that appropriations of departments that have been converted into ministries will remain unchanged.



King receives Murphy

AMMAN (Star) — His Majesty King Hussein received on Monday US Assistant Secretary of State for Middle East and South Asia Affairs, Mr Richard Murphy. US ambassador in Amman attended the meeting.

Earlier, Mr Murphy met with Foreign Minister Mr Taher Al Masri, and briefed him on current negotiations regarding the withdrawal of Israeli forces from South Lebanon.

Mr Murphy left Amman on Tuesday.



Prince Hassan in India

AMMAN (Star) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan participated on Saturday in the funeral procession and ceremony of India's assassinated Prime Minister Mrs Indira Gandhi. In a press statement of the Indian Press Agency, Prince Hassan conveyed to the Indian people and India's new Prime Minister Mr Rajiv Gandhi His Majesty King Hussein's condolences and the Jordanian people's deepest sympathies.

During his stay in New Delhi Prince Hassan met with Pakistani President Zia Ul-Haq and Britain's Prime Minister Mrs Margaret Thatcher.

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Survey seeks to study foreign workers' impact on Jordan

By Kathy Kakish
Star Staff Writer

AMMAN — Now that Jordan's employment offices have issued work permits to some 60,000 foreign workers within a four-month span, attention has turned to the socio-economic impact of these workers on the Jordanian society. Since late October, the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) has been engaged in a detailed survey on the socio-economic impact of the approximately 120,000 foreign workers in Jordan.



Dr Smadi of the RSS

tendency to employ foreign staff rather than Jordanian. This will give researchers a clear idea about where and what Jordanian workers are lacking.

Once the field work is completed by the end of December, the survey will undergo through analysis co-ordinated with data supplied from all centres and departments concerned among which are the Public Security and its Crime Department that can help in defining the number and types of crimes committed by non-Jordanian workers; the Health Ministry which has extended at least 25 per cent of its annual services to foreign workers and the ministries of Supply, Social Development and Industry, Trade and Tourism.

Along with the results of a survey the department carried out last year on the socio-economic impact of remittances sent into Jordan by the estimated 300,000 Jordanian expatriates working in the Gulf states, the results of this survey will be the centre of attention in a seminar due to take place in May, 1985.

The seminar, which will be attended by participants from several Arab countries as well as Turkey, Greece and Germany, is to be organized by the RSS in co-operation with the German Friedrich Ebert Foundation, which is now helping the RSS by co-sponsoring the estimated JD 120,000 total costs of the survey.

Dr Smadi said that as this field study — the first of its kind in

the region — forms an excellent basis for policies related to the Jordanian manpower planning and decision-making, the results will be incorporated in the final drafts of the up-coming five-year development plan. They will also be beneficial in clarifying the country's needs for consumer goods, public services, social development and the steering of youth in the field of education and skill training.

The conducting of research and field surveys that deal with the Jordanian economy at large such as this one is the job of the RSS Economic Research Department. Most of its surveys are self-initiated and are more or less financed by the RSS. Recently, the department has taken steps to conduct surveys on a contract-oriented basis through which clients request the department to investigate certain economic matters.

New international radio station to be established in Amman

AMMAN (Star) — A new radio station is to be built near the present one in Amman. The station is expected to be received in all parts of the world. Broadcasts will be in Arabic and English.

The new site will have a neat network of roads with entrances, and exits linking it with Queen Alia International Airport.

There will be four sub studios one of which will have the capacity for 100 musicians and 250 audience. Other studios will be fully equipped for performing and acting purposes.

The main building will consist of two floors. The first floor will receive transmissions from

international news agencies and for monitoring other radio stations in addition to news section, public relations, rest room, director general office, control rooms and files and archives section.

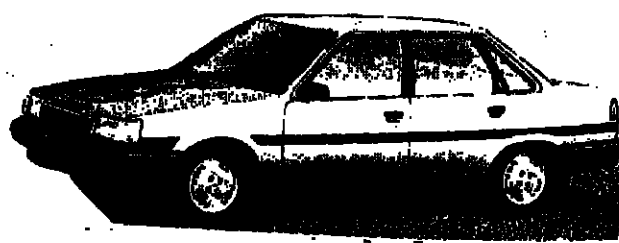
The 2nd floor will house a musical library, regular programmes, conference room, lecturing room, news studio, cafeteria, offices, and a grand reception hall.

The project will cost around JD 4.5 million. The area of the building will reach 2500 square meters. The designs are ready together with tender documents and have been submitted to the cabinet for approval.

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By Alec Collett
Star Correspondent

NEW YORK — Jordan is singled out for a mild rebuke by the head of the UN agency for Palestine refugees in the Middle East (UNRWA). Commissioner-General Olof Rydbeck, for not settling claims made against the Jordan government by the agency.

This was made known in a report to the UN made by Rydbeck, a former Swedish diplomat. The annual report on the work of UNRWA is currently under consideration by the General Assembly's Special Political Committee. The report takes Israel more seriously to task for being heavily in debt to UNRWA to the tune of more than \$4.5 million for loss and damage to agency property in Lebanon as well as an unspecified amount for claims lodged with Israel as far back as 1967.

Regarding Jordan, the report gives no details, merely stating that the agency is unable "to report any progress with regard to claims against the Jordanian government."

It has been learned, however, that UNRWA claims against Jordan probably date from the 1967 war.

On Israel, the report says the UN General Assembly on 15 December called upon Israel "to compensate the agency for the loss and damage caused to its property and facilities resulting from the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982."

In a statement to the committee, Olof Rydbeck stressed that UNRWA's locally recruited staff of 17,000 in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and the occupied territories of the West Bank and Gaza "are paid according to the prevailing rates in the area of operations for the type of work that they do."

He added that when he accepted International Civil Service Commission recommendations following a salary survey in Jordan, Syria and the occupied ter-

Rydbeck report to the UN cities UNRWA's achievements

ritories it was not on the basis of the levels proposed but those in keeping with salaries paid by local employers. Increases implemented this summer were thus "entirely within the budgeted amounts for this year," he said.

"A second increase in 1985 will bring the total annual cost to about \$21 million some two-thirds of the ICSC recommendation." It would bring the agency's financial needs for 1985 to just over \$258 million, of which \$225 million is required in cash.

Giving examples of salaries, Rydbeck said an UNRWA school teacher typically received \$5,800 annually, a doctor little more \$12,000, and a sanitation labourer about \$3,600. The Rydbeck report says that in October last year some 342,245 pupils were enrolled in 653 agency elementary and preparatory schools in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. A total of 10,027 teachers provided their services. A further 98,044 refugee pupils were known to be enrolled in government and private elementary and secondary schools in the same areas. An additional 45,100 non-eligible children were in agency schools.

This will be Olof Rydbeck's final report to the United Nations, since he is retiring at the year's end. His report states that UNRWA has become "an important factor in the overall Middle East political context. He told the committee that the agency promotes political stability. But he added that while it serves more than 2 million refugees in five countries and territories it remains a "strictly humanitarian institution."

What the Commissioner-General does not refer to in his report is the fact that in areas

such as occupied southern Lebanon the agency, together with UN peacekeeping forces, UNIFIL, represents the only authority protecting the refugees from the excesses of the Israeli army, lodging protests when these involve the Palestinian population or UNRWA staff.

Pointing out that the agency is 35 years old next year, Rydbeck



Rydbeck

said it was originally established to provide relief to hundreds of thousands of destitute Palestinians who fled in the wake of the 1948 Arab-Israeli war. Today, he adds, it is an established institution playing a central role in the lives of Palestinian refugees, most of whom "depend on it socially and emotionally."

It remains a "temporary" agency, however. It has just completed its twelfth mandate from the General Assembly as a temporary agency, its new mandate expiring on 30 June 1987. "It is important to recall," the report says, "that all General Assembly resolutions extending the agency's mandate, including the latest one, have stipulated that the extension is made without prejudice to paragraph 11 of Resolution 194 (3rd session of General Assembly): that is,

without prejudice to the rights of the Palestine refugees to return to their homes or receive compensation if they so prefer. The resolutions have also regularly expressed regret over the fact that the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine has failed to make progress towards realising those rights.

Thus, from the very outset, the mandate of UNRWA has been linked to the political dimension of the Palestine question.

The Commissioner-General points out, however, that the agency's ability to continue playing the role it does — especially with regard to promoting stability in the Middle East — is "seriously threatened by the increasing difficulty it faces in financing its regular programmes, even at the present level." Despite estimated needs for 1985, Rydbeck said donors were prepared to give only about \$170 million for 1984. The position could be helped if countries which have never contributed to UNRWA — the Soviet Union and the socialist bloc — were to make donations. Other states, too, though small have only made token contributions of a few thousand dollars. They include El Salvador, the Bahamas, Romania and Barbados.

Among other points made in the Rydbeck report are:

The 142 textbooks prescribed for Jordan schools are also the prescribed textbooks for the West Bank. Of the 108 approved by UNESCO, the Israeli authorities have refused import permits for nine.

"The vocational training centres in Syria, Jordan and the Gaza Strip functioned normally throughout the year. In Jordan, the only country where a straight

comparison can be made with government centres, the two agency centres had a success rates significantly higher than the national average.

"Pre-service teacher training continued to be provided at three agency centres, one in Amman and two in Ramallah. Of the 268 second-year teacher trainees of the Amman Training Centre who sat for the General Comprehensive Examination in July 1983, 241 (90 per cent) passed."

The report says that in Jordan the Ministry of Health continued to collect fees from refugees referred to hospitals by UNRWA medical officers. "The agency's scheme to refund the cost of hospitalisation at government hospitals to those who are members of destitute families or to whom the cost causes financial hardship has not, on the whole, been accepted either by the refugee community or the government of Jordan," it adds. Discussions with the government on ways of improving hospitalisation of refugees were still in progress.

On the subject of environmental health, the report said the government of Jordan had provided all shelters in the Tablah camp with indoor water taps.

A new "self-help" programme in Jordan aimed at assisting Jordanian refugees to become self-supporting resulted in JD 8,786,540 being granted to 17 families to start carefully monitored projects. Five of these families have already been removed from hardship rolls.

The report says: "A pilot project run with the co-operation and financial support of OXFAM, with the aim of showing the Suf camp community in Jordan how the disabled can be assisted in the community by the community, has been making slow but steady progress. The agency is now seeking among voluntary organisations a partner to co-operate in a similar scheme in a neighbouring camp whose inhabitants have requested it."

Conference on biological sciences tackles problems

By Maha Zabaneh
Star Staff Writer

AMMAN — Among the most urgent needs expressed and pressing problems being faced by the developing countries are either wholly or partly biological in nature.

Examples of these needs are the provision of food and need of adequate nutrition, ensuring better health conditions and the conquest of endemic diseases in addition to the control of environmental pollution, the national use of natural resources and the combat of desert encroachment.

The Third Arab Scientific Conference for Biological Sciences, which ended here Tuesday, touched upon such matters. It discussed 195 research papers presented by 20 scientists representing 12 Arab countries. The papers covered different fields of biological sciences such as Biochemistry, Nutrition, molecular biology, plant disease, major biology, animal sciences, ecology pollution and other related biological subjects.

The objectives of the four-day conference were to discuss methods for ensuring adequate nutrition, to develop the use of natural resources and agricultural production and to find solutions to environmental problems in the Arab region as well as to pave the way for Arab scientists to meet and exchange their experiences.

The conference was co-organized by the Jordan Society of

Biological Sciences (JSBS) and the Arab Biologists Union (ABU) in co-operation with the University of Jordan and Yarmouk University.

In an interview with The Star, Executive Secretary of the International Union of Biological Sciences (IUBS) Dr. Talal Yonnes said that the unequal distribution of scientists and engineers active in the field of research and development, provides a clear indication of the boundaries separating developed and developing worlds. Developed countries possess 88.7 per cent of the world available human scientific resources, whereas developing nations have only 11.3 per cent, he said.

In more comparable terms, the estimate of research and development scientists and engineers (per million population) is 2214 per million for the developed countries, with only 118 per million in developing nations. The expenditures in percentage out of the gross national product (GNP) represents 1.95 per cent in the industrialized world and 0.43 per cent in developing countries.

Dr. Yonnes added that the reasons behind this shortage in qualified human resources, scientists and researchers in the developing countries, lie in the weakness of scientific institutions, research centres and universities. "Experience shows that scientific development and productivity depend on the creation of a complex environment," he added.

Also competent administration is needed to direct and co-ordinate the national research efforts. Policy and decision makers cannot be expected to financially support scientific research unless they are aware that it is in the direct interest of their economy to do so. Administrators need some scientific training in order to identify national needs, problems and priorities in the area of scientific and technological research and development.

"In order to develop maximum scientific potential in the region, co-operating among Arab biologists and international biological sciences community is vitally needed," Dr. Yonnes said. This co-operation should be promoted through the organization of training courses on scientific high-level topics as well as through seminars and workshops on selected field of research, the establishment of mechanisms for the exchange of information and the development of co-operation interdisciplinary research programmes.

The IUBS was established in 1919, its objectives are to promote the study of biological sciences, to initiate, facilitate and co-ordinate research and other scientific activities that require international conferences and to assist in the publication of their reports.

The members of IUBS presently consists of 47 national members and of 66 scientific members, all of which are inter-

national scientific associations, societies or commissions in the various biological disciplines. Jordan is a member of IUBS.

On the other hand, Dr. Azwar Khalaf, president of ABU told The Star that the importance of this conference stems from its continuity. The first conference was held in Baghdad and the second in Fez, Morocco, in 1982. The third conference held this week in Amman aims at bringing together Arab scientists, to join their efforts in identifying priorities in terms of scientific research and to introduce their activities to scientists from developed countries.

He said that ABU was established in 1977, its objectives are to organize scientific semi-

nars and symposia and to support Arab countries in establishing scientific research centres. "The fruit of our effort is the establishment of the societies of biological sciences in Jordan, Tunisia and Morocco," Dr. Khalaf said.

The conference which was opened by the Minister of Health, Dr. Kamel Al Ajlouni, deputizing for his Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, has been organized and supported by different Jordanian and Arab organizations including Abdul Hamid Shuman Institute, IUBS, the Regional Office, and Technology for Arab countries, Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline, the Jordanian-Kuwait Bank and Al Ahli Bank.



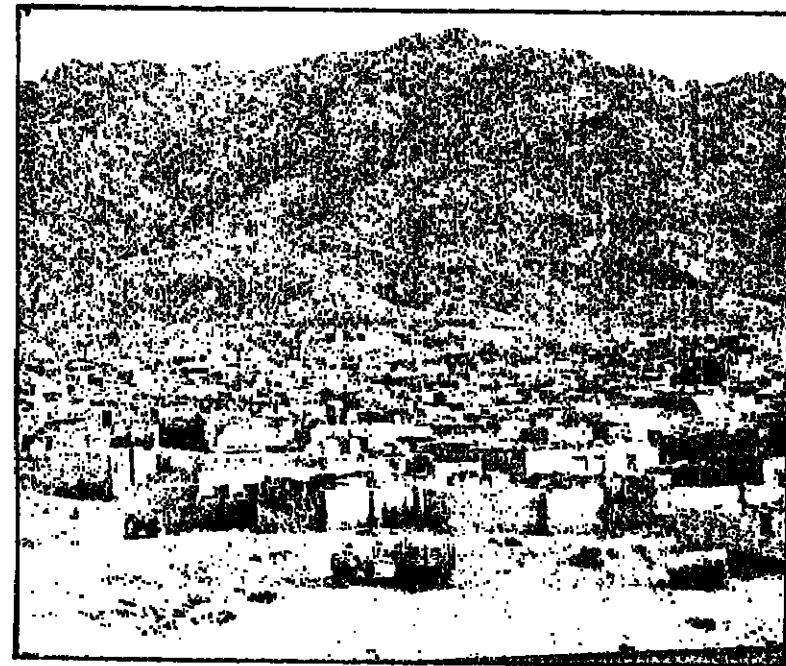
Haya Arts Centre
and
The American Cultural Centre
Present
The Bluegrass Cardinals
In a festive music concert of
American Folk Music and Songs
at the Haya Centre Theatre
on Thursday, Saturday 15, 17/11/84 at 7:30 pm
(1 JD)
Also Matinee performance, Saturday 17/11/84 at
4:00 pm (500 fils).
Tickets sold at Haya and American Centre.

Her Royal Highness Princess Alia receives her gift

By Kathy Kakish
Star Staff Writer

Major plans for Aqaba to be carried out by ARA

AMMAN — By the end of next year, Aqaba will have developed a different character as the Aqaba Regional Authority (ARA) is embarked on a number of projects ranging from clearing up the city's poor districts to establishing a training centre for divers — all with the participation of the private sector.



Aqaba's poor areas to be re-organized

Dr Duraid Mahasneh, ARA vice president, spoke to The Star over the telephone on ARA's three main programmes which are: The organizational plan, and projects for the city and its economy; Aqaba's regional development projects to be included in the up-coming five-year development plan; and ARA's internal activities to modify its financial and administrative systems.

Among the projects to be executed within ARA's first programme is the re-organization of the city's poor areas such as Shallah, located in the eastern part of Aqaba where a huge number of people are living on lands owned by the government.

The construction of a JD 2 million housing complex for workers — a project tailing five

other similar ones — will indirectly assist the authority in its re-organizational projects for areas such as Shallah and Halfay — a district that is densely populated — but has palm trees, which are considered to be an ideal attraction for tourists if the area is organized.

Erected by several local construction companies in co-operation with ARA, the complex will be located at the eastern side of the city's entrance road and is expected to be completed within the next four months. Besides housing up to 3,000 workers in addition to some 1,000 transit labourers, the complex includes all the requirements of any residential area like grocery stores, a bank, a travel agency and cinema hall.

The Prince Hamzeh Gardens are soon to be set in Aqaba with a botanical tropical garden as well as palm tree centre, to play as an efficient windbreaker for the surrounding area and to be irrigated by the sewage treatment plant located nearby.

By June, 1985, a 350 dunam camping site for low income vacationers and nature lovers will offer space for 1,000 tents and will include facilities such as fresh drinking water, electricity, showers, restaurants and travel agencies.

Nearby the Aqaba citadel, the Royal Yachting Club will emerge to gather all yachts found in the Aqaba water in one harbour to be utilized for all activities whether sports or other. A training centre for divers, to be located at the southern coastal area, will also be established.

This JD 70,000 centre will be able to train 40 people at the same time in the skills of diving once it is completed within the next eight months.

The Ministries of Industry and Trade and Tourism and the

With so many projects on its hands that require study, planning designing and conducting, ARA has felt the need for advice from professionals. It was Dr Al Handaseh, a local consulting firm, which has recently won a nine-month contract to do the job. The firm is also providing ARA with ideas for the other two ARA programmes.

Now that measures are rapidly underway for preparing drafts for the upcoming five-year development plan, the authority is



Beaches with palm trees will become a tourist attraction

Chambers of Industry and Commerce along with ARA have plans to use ARA's free zone area to be the focus for the holding of international and local trade and industrial fairs that will indirectly boost the volume of sales of Jordanian goods and industries.

busy studying, reviewing and preparing the projects and budgets for the region's future.

The third project carried out by the authority is reserved for modifications and improvements of its two-year old administration and financial systems.

Jordan's labour force studied for future planning

By Star Staff Writer

AMMAN — The future of the Jordan labour force is a matter which decisionmakers and researchers are highly concerned about, especially that the final drafting of Jordan's five-year development plan is just round the corner.

The Royal Scientific Society (RSS) is one of the research bodies which has played its role in studying matters related to the labour force and manpower. Last year it conducted a survey on the socio-economic impact of incoming remittances from Jordanian expatriates — especially from the estimated 300,000 working in the Gulf states only. The RSS is currently embarked on a field work survey to pinpoint the socio-economic impact of the some 120,000 foreign workers in Jordan. (See page 4).

On the other hand, the Ministry of Labour and Social Development is tackling other related labour force matters, including the First Conference on Jordanian Expatriates, due to take place in mid-1985.

The outcome of the conference's organizing committee's first meeting on Sunday, 4 November, was the forming of two sub-committees. The first deals with organizational purposes and the second for dealing with the papers to be presented.

All the parties concerned with the issue of Jordan's present and future labour force are represented through membership in the conference's organizing committee. The members of this committee are Dr Tayseer Abdul Jabbar, Minister of Labour and

Social Development, undersecretaries of the ministries of Foreign Affairs, Interior, Industry and Trade, Tourism, Finance, Information, Education and Planning as well as members from the Central Bank of Jordan, the Chambers of Industry, Trade and the General Union of Trade Unions.

Some light has been shed upon Jordan's future labour force supply and demand for the years 1986-1990 through a study the Ministry of Labour and Social Development has recently conducted.

The study bases its estimates for the future from Jordan's population situation and its manpower growth from 1961 up till the present. Detailed information on workers ranging from age, education, occupations, skills, population growth, labour force volume, and demographic changes are used for such basis and for analysis.

The study shows that the 533,800 workers expected to form the country's labour force in 1985 are expected to increase to 603,000 workers in 1990 — bringing the labour force growth to 2.46 per cent annually.

As for the market's demand for labour, at all levels of occupations through the years 1986-1990, the study sets it to be 142,685 workers — a figure derived after taking into consideration the difference in numbers between the actual labour force volume and the number required for economic expansions, manpower migration abroad and employment replacements due to retirement or death.

As for the labour force supply, the study anticipates that ap-

proximately 12,639 high-school drop-outs will seek jobs in the year 1990 as against 10,674 in 1986. In the same time 9,851 workers with highschool degrees will enter the market while university graduates and post-graduates and college degree holders will constitute a number of 20,484 in 1990 as against 16,501 in 1986.

Balancing the figures of labour supply and the market's demand throughout the years 1986-1990, the study anticipates that the market's need for 1986 will be 27,207 workers as against 30,012 in 1990. The labour supply for 1986 will be 41,313 as against 49,389 in 1990.

Such a study aims at forming statistical charts which show

clearly Jordan's population and labour force situations as well as to study the relations between demographic movement and the labour force within a defined sequence of time from which such matters can be predicted.

Another aim is to form plans to direct a balance between labour force supply and demand and to predict the gaps between the two.

Arab tourism ministers discuss new strategy

By Sawzan Musallam
Star Staff Writer

AMMAN — Arab tourism ministers and experts are in Amman to discuss issues related to creating a pan-Arab tourism strategy that will organize related issues such as aviation and transportation tariffs.

Such topics were discussed in the Arab Tourism Organization's (ATO) conference which will finish its meetings in Amman today.

It is the first meeting to be held after the Arab Tourism Union (ATU) which was converted into a specialized organization, the ATO, of the Arab League five years ago. The organisation aims at developing travel and tourism industry in the Arab World.

Dr Abdul Rahman Abu Rabah, former general secretary of the Arab Tourism Union, was re-elected to chair the Arab Tourism Organisation. Attending delegations, headed by Arab ministers, undersecretaries of tourism and some of the ambassadors to Jordan, represented Iraq, Tunisia, North and South Yemen, Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO), Morocco, Sudan, Qatar, Syria, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates (UAE), Oman, Lebanon, Mauritania, Kuwait, and the Arab League. Jordan was represented by the Minister of Culture, Tourism and Antiquities, Mr Taher Hikmat who presided over the sessions.

The conference discussed recommendations of the organisation's executive council which met Saturday under the chairmanship of the Tunisian Minister of Tourism and Traditional Industries, Mr Abdul Aziz Shalabi. It also discussed matters pertaining to the financial and managerial systems of the organisation as well as its organisational structure. Moreover, a strategy for joint Arab Tourism and co-operation in the field of tourism with Greece were stressed on during the conference.

On the other hand, Mr Abdulla Al-Bar, the undersecretary of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism in South Yemen, discussed with Mr Hikmat ways for bolstering co-operation in the field of tourism between his country and Jordan. Mr Umar Hassan Murad, PLO representative at the conference said that the organisation's ultimate goal is to give the Arab World a joint aviation programme with a set tariff for transport between Arab capitals in a way that will generate reasonable profit but would enhance the Arab tourists' market.

Labour

Labour's situation forms a sort of reverse parallel with that of the Conservatives. Where the Conservative Party has evolved from a hostility towards Jews, through support for and then disenchantment with Zionism but with a growing Israeli lobby, Labour has moved from near total support for Zionism and hostility towards Arabs, to strong sympathy for the Palestinians and a great diminution in the influence of its once all-powerful Israeli lobby.

For many years, Labour was the most pro-Israeli of all British parties. Yet, by 1982, the annual party conference, which defines the broad principles of party policy, had carried a resolution condemning "the continuing pattern of Israeli aggression" calling for the recognition of the PLO and declaring support for the inalienable right of the Palestinian people to self-determination within an independent sovereign state. Similar sympathies are strongly held among Labour members of parliament.

In assessing the Labour approach: it is necessary to take account of a unique difference between the Labour Party and any of the other parties being looked at in this serialisation. All three of the other parties were created inside parliament by sitting MPs who formed parties to seek to control parliament in support of the policies they upheld. By contrast, the Labour Party was created outside parliament to secure the election of MPs.

This unique difference has given the Labour Party a constitution whereby the annual party conference, comprised of delegates from the constituencies, trade unions and, other affiliates, exercises a stronger power in the formulation of policy than is the case in the other parties.

World Zionism and British Socialism became organized political movements in circumstances which can be compared and which do much to explain the influence of the former within the latter. They were both created at about the same time, the Zionist Movement at Basle in 1897 and the Labour Party in London in 1900. In each case, there was a coming together, for the purpose of creating the means to determine their own future, of people, to whose interests the established order was hostile and, from its inception, the Labour Party had strong Jewish membership and support, mainly from among the families of the immigrants who had come to Britain to escape the persecutions of Czarist Russia.

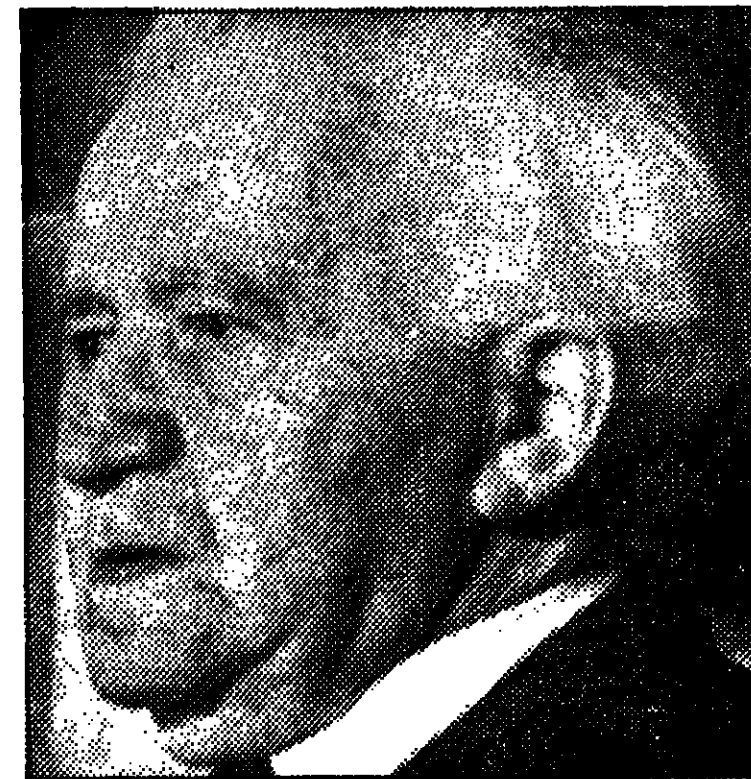
Socialism was little part of Zionism but an organisation called Poale Zion (Workers of Zion) was formed in Russia, and an English constituent was proclaimed at a conference in Liverpool in the north west of England in 1906. Its main purpose was to influence the Labour Party. So an organized infiltration of the Labour Party started in the same year that a radical general election brought the Parliamentary Labour Party into being.

When the wartime coalition government, in which the Labour Party was a participant, issued

The Exceptional Conflict

By David Watkins
Instalment 7

CONTINUING THE serialisation based on his pamphlet on British political parties and the Arab-Israeli conflict, David Watkins examines the Labour Party. He is himself a former Labour member of parliament and former chairman of the Labour Middle East Council.



David Ben Gurion: He formed the Histadrut — the General Federation of Jewish Labour

used the Balfour Declaration.

Poale Zion organised meetings in support throughout the country. In 1920, it was accepted into affiliation with the Labour Party and has remained actively affi-

liated ever since.

Also in 1920, in Palestine, David Ben Gurion formed the Histadrut, the General Federation of Jewish Labour. Ben Gurion made it his business to esta-

lish strong personal links with British Labour and trade union leaders. The Histadrut was represented as a trade union, movement although, in reality, it was very different from anything understood as trade unionism in Britain, being syndicalist, para-military and dedicated primarily to creating Arab workers by the creation of an immigrant Jewish working class.

Basis of Labour's approach

What became the definitive basis of Labour's approach for over half a century was set out in the House of Commons in 1922, by the party's spokesman, Josiah Wedgwood. He expounded the view that Zionism was creating a new society in Palestine, based on democracy and progress, that it was welcomed by the Arab common people and opposed only by feudal landlords.

That line and variations on it became a familiar theme and, for British Socialists, it was a powerful and attractive argument. The reality was the exact opposite. In Palestine, the Histadrut was ensuring that sources of employment set up with Jewish capital employed only Jewish labour and that when land was bought from Arab landlords, the Arab workers were expelled and replaced by immigrant Jews.

By the Labour government of 1929-31, there was major conflict in Palestine. The secretary for the colonies, Lord Passfield (Sidney Webb) recognized the injustice already inflicted upon the Palestinians and he put forward proposals to rectify it. There was a huge outcry from the Zionists in the party, from their worldwide organisation and from the anti-Labour British press. The Prime Minister, Ramsay MacDonald, bowed to the pressure and repudiated Webb's proposals.

In the next instalment, the change in the Labour Party,

Culturally rich nation in a forgotten century

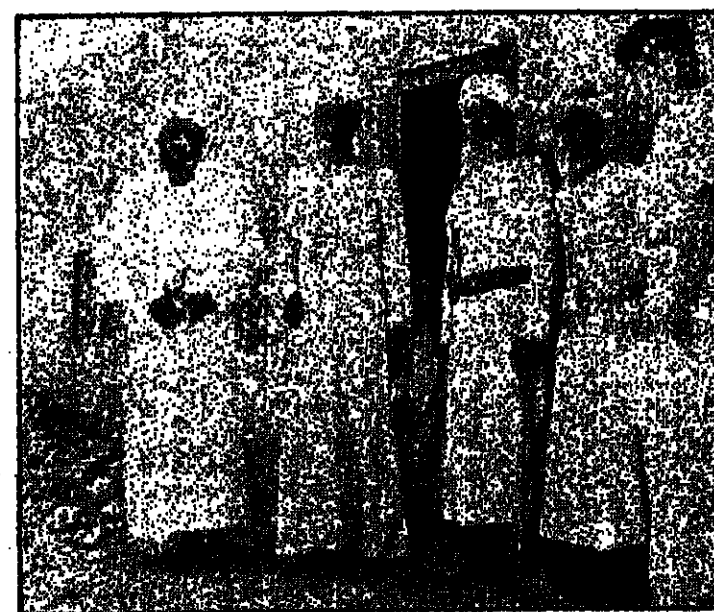


The writer with an old Omani she interviewed on some aspects of Oman's past and present

MUSCAT — Trying to describe Oman reminds one of the story of the four blind persons describing an elephant, each feeling a different part. So with Oman, it depends on one's vantage point.

It is not easy to get to this land of sabbat the sailor legend. Tourism is not allowed, although one innkeeper says "it will be opening to tourists in two years". Visas are rare and difficult to come by. I have been given three reasons for this: First, the country is developing exceedingly rapidly so unnecessary foreigners are discouraged in order that social changes may occur in a manner not destructive to traditional cultural values. Second, presently there are not enough modern physical facilities to handle a large influx of tourists, though there are a number of luxury hotels, and many more, plus guest houses, are under construction. Third, the Omani government is extremely security conscious. All three reasons are plausible.

Editor's note: Star Geneva Correspondent Carrie Nellie Thompson first visited Oman in November, 1981. She has just completed four weeks travelling throughout the country once again. The following is the first in a series of articles on her recent experience.



Omanis in traditional Omani belges in one of the rural villages

Oman has made a silent leap into modern history. Until Sultan Qaboos took power fourteen years ago, the citizenry enjoyed few, if any, 20th century amenities. There was no electricity, only ten kms of asphalted roads, no schools for girls and only three primary schools for boys. It was a nation living in a forgotten century. In 1984 there are

An accurate census is not to be had, but it is estimated there are 1.5 million native Omanis in the 300,000 square kms which comprise the second largest country of the Arabian peninsula. Development is occurring so rapidly jobs far outnumber the indigenous population, consequently there is no unemployment. One sees an inordinately large number of British, Germans, Indians and Pakistanis, plus a few Americans. There are 152,000 expatriates employed in Oman.

Inaccessible

There are several routes penetrating Oman south of Muscat. One of these leads to Ibra, a pleasant desert town which serves as the capital of the provincial Wilayat (government) of the same name. A few kms south of Ibra one can take an abrupt left turn into a land that tests the toughness of any outsider, while rewarding the same with natural beauty that astounds.

The 35 km road to Ibra, which has only been completed in the 1980's, twists, turns, and agonizes up a rock-stark desert mountain an angle demanding six wheels of the 4-wheeled power.

There are eleven villages in the Wadi, and they represent very well the strides the Omani government is making in bringing basic services to its people while retaining the integrity of village life. It is estimated that ninety per cent of the male population is engaged in agriculture, especially date farming, not

leaving for the glamour of Muscat and environs. Trained development and health workers have moved into the Wadi and are engaging both the adult and child population (male and female) in literacy classes and school. There is a six-bed maternity hospital where most women now choose to deliver their babies.

Wadi Bani Khalid represents the best in introducing positive developmental and health measures to the most inaccessible of rural villages, while retaining traditional community and family values. This is not to picture the Wadi as a paradise. There are many, many problems to be overcome. The flies are thick, the mosquitoes only a little less so. Water is periodic at best and scarce at any time. Pollution of what little water there is remains a serious problem. Lack of cleanliness inherent in both the scarcity and pollution remains a purveyor of disease and poverty. Life expectancy is estimated at 47 for the male, 49 for the female. Infant mortality is high. But the government, co-operating with international organizations like WHO and UNDP, is steadily tackling these challenges with both overt assistance such as a protected dam in the Wadi, to self-help educational programmes which already are producing positive results. If such methods can be disseminated throughout rural Oman — and the effort has begun in strong fashion — the Omani government will achieve its desired goal. It is a mammoth task.

Continued on page 9

'Bantustans' provide cheap labour for Israeli economy

By Alec Collett
Star UN Correspondent

NEW YORK — Israeli bantustans, providing cheap labour for the Israeli economy, have existed in the occupied territories of the West Bank and Gaza for many years.

Most of the nearly 100,000 Palestinian workers providing services in a variety of unskilled, semi-skilled and skilled jobs are not given permits to stay overnight and have to travel back and forth each day. Twelve-hour days away from their homes are therefore common. Most are refugees from Israeli occupation of their homes in the Holy Land and the majority have to provide or pay for their own transportation each day.

As in South Africa, which originated the bantustan concept, most jobs done by Palestinians are those Israelis prefer not to do themselves. Among those most in demand are the building artisans who possess traditional skills for cutting and shaping the white stone quarried in the land and therefore highly desired by Israelis for creating the settlements that decorate the hillsides and dominate the Arab villages in the valleys throughout the West Bank.

Soon after dawn each day there is a mass exodus into Israel from the refugee camps and occupied territories of tens of

thousands of Palestinian workers. They crowd into buses, old cars and even taxis in a struggle to reach what, thanks to the economic straits visited on the West Bank and Gaza, represents the only possibility of earning income to support their families.

In their propaganda this is depicted by Israelis as a humanitarian device created by Israel to provide employment for Arabs. In point of fact apart from undertaking work that Israelis are unwilling to do themselves, the Palestinians are paid somewhat less — both in wages and fringe benefits — than an Israeli doing comparable work.

During a visit to Gaza this summer, I rose early one morning to see for myself the extent of this daily exodus of workers through the military check-point into Israel. Standing close to the checkpoint on the outskirts of Gaza town at 5 am, I counted 100 vehicles within five minutes of passing me on the road into Israel. There were buses and cars, Mercedes stretch taxis common to Israeli travellers, a few trucks and some lorries.

All were crammed with their human cargo, cars containing an average of six persons and the taxis contained more. By my reckoning, that would amount to about 10,000 to 12,000 an hour. Most were young men. There were even a few women dressed in head scarves and Mu-



Palestinian workers, await, hoping against hope for permits

slim dress. They went to farms to pick fruit and vegetables. I was told.

Before going to the check-point outside town, I went to the assembly point in town where hundreds of Palestinians were waiting for their usual transport. There was a conglomeration of vehicles of all kinds. Talked to a young man who said he was a fitting mechanic working as a

sub-contractor in Ashdod for 2400 shekels a day. He was paid less than Israeli mechanics, he said unskilled Arab labourers were earning about half his income. He travelled to Ashdod by bus each day and only half his travel expenses were met by his employer.

Some 35,000 workers travel into Israel from Gaza each day, though a total of 60,000 were

registered with the Israeli labour office. Most return each day for lack of a pass to stay longer. Food bought by the Palestinians while at work also serves to fuel the Israeli economy, of course.

According to figures compiled with the assistance of the Israelis, the International Labour Office reports that in the last four months of 1983, 92,000 Arab workers worked in Israel. The figure is believed to have increased because of the decline in the demand for labour in the Gulf States.

Compared to the total residents of the occupied territories some 38 per cent overall were employed in Israel in the first nine months of 1983. The percentage of Gaza alone, however, was 46 per cent in 1983. According to information I was given, Israeli workers collect social security and pension, whereas workers from the occupied territories do not. A fact finding mission which the ILO sent to Israel and the occupied territories this year was there for 11 days only, 23 February to 4 March.

The report of the mission claims that employment in the occupied territories increased from 173,000 in 1970 to 225,000 in 1983. Employment of Arab workers in Israel continued an upward trend, on the other hand, the report said.

Oman of yesterday and today

Continued from page 7

A few kms from the dusty, bustling provincial capital of Ibra is the date-palm village of Al-Thabit. If story-book photographs could come to life, the scene greeting three of us on a warm October morning would surely have emanated from one.

Sitting on mats under palm trees were nineteen girls and thirty six boys between the ages of five and eight. An old man with a long beard, wearing quartz thick glasses, was reading from the Qur'an. He would speak in a deep, resonant voice, then the children would respond in unison in their high chirps.

A fun and effective means of encouraging youngsters of any culture to interact with newly met adults is to carry a trusty instant photo camera. The children participating in the Quranic school of Al-Thabit were seated neatly — almost primly — when we entered their village. The boys, dressed in beige dishdashas and traditional Omani Kumas (caps) sat facing the girls, whose colourful pants, tunics, and scarves seemed to echo their laughs and giggles at seeing us approach. The minute my camera was spied, they could have been children anywhere in the world: all 55 immediately rushed to the spot where I had taken aim. Just as predictably, the teacher could have been at any school in any country too, for he issued a firm command to his chattering pupils, who then hastened to their seats, eyes downcast, duly chastised.

With their being orderly settled once more, I was able to photograph at will. When the task was completed — all the while children and teacher were exchanging recitations — I took the pictures to the old man. Not until that moment did I realize he was not reading from the Qur'an; rather, he was speaking from memory. He was blind.

From my first visit to an Omani village in 1981, I had been deeply concerned by the inordinately large number of children with eye infections or obvious visual defects and the corresponding number of blind or partially blind adults. On this trip, consisting of visiting 21 rural villages, I began to take special note of this and, according to my personal unofficial method of sampling, one of every six persons, child or adult, in rural villages north of the great central desert suffered some form of eye defect. I was told there are two primary causes: Vitamin A deficiency and trachoma, an infection brought and spread by flies.

Health education

The Omani government is acutely aware of the seriousness of this scourge and is combatting it with both preventive and curative measures. Community Development workers (CDs) are being trained in increasingly large numbers in Muscat and elsewhere. To fill the gap, the government also imports many social workers and medical personnel.

(It seemed to me the majority of the expatriates in social development are from Egypt, where as the physicians and nurses appear to be mostly Indian, Sri Lankan, and Pakistani. When talking with them, no matter their nationality, I found them to express deep personal feelings of warmth toward "their" villages. Without exception, each one with whom I spoke told of feeling lonely upon arriving, because of absence of family and friends. Yet each hastened to add that the gentleness and hospitality of the Omani soon made them feel they belonged.)

The strongest tool with which the government is combating eye problems and other medical ailments is education. A govern-



Omani boys and girls listen to a blind Omani who reads the Qu'ran from memory to their hearing.

A third factor discouraging breast feeding is the pure physical weakness that comes with having babies closely spaced. Until now the Omani government has advocated large families because the country is underpopulated (1.5 million people in 300,000 square kms), but as the infant mortality rate is lowered, the need for exceedingly large numbers of births will decrease. Then child spacing will become a regular part of health studies throughout Oman, as it is in some well populated villages now.

A final cause for non-breast feeding, which the survey indicates was found only in the Dhofar region of southern Oman, is a surprise to outsiders. The women there exhibit an independence that is a bit different from their sisters of the north, whose self assertion manifests itself mostly in the home. Villagers and medical personnel said many of these women will not breast feed because they feel it will ruin their shapes. To combat this attitude, village Imams are beginning to openly sanction breast feeding while CDs are explaining that breast feeding affects shapes very little. More importantly, CDs are showing the direct link between bottle feeding and infant mortality, thereby appealing to the far greater value of saving the child's life.

Infant mortality

The reasons given for bottle feeding vary from village to village. In many the cause is stated to be malnutrition on the part of the mothers.

A second cause is the belief by many that a woman cannot become pregnant while she is breast feeding. With the strong cultural pressure to have large families, and with the infant mortality rate so high — presently estimated at 120 of every 1,000 live births — many mothers choose to become pregnant within two to three months of delivery. Development and medical personnel are teaching that breast feeding does not de-

Two years ago an international health-oriented organization, with the co-operation of the government, introduced oral rehydration salts (ORS) which, when mixed with clean water, helps the child's body retain much needed fluids. Prior to the use of ORS and a joint WHO/Government Expanded Programme of Immunization, infant deaths exceeded 200 per every 1,000 live births. The drop to the present 120 shows that the dramatic steps which have been taken are effective. Few developing nations have a comparable record.

An inauspicious beginning for the new Indian premier Rajiv Gandhi tackles communal strife

By G.K. Nair
Special to The Star

IT WAS an inauspicious beginning for Mr Rajiv Gandhi, India's new prime minister, who was elevated to the high office hours after the assassination of his mother Mrs Indira Gandhi. The tranquillity that prevailed over the capital and other parts of the country was torn by bloody communal violence, which was, described by the media, as one of the worst incidents to happen in the recent history of India. At least a thousand people lost their lives while thousands sustained injuries in the strife. It was a revengeful act on the part of the Hindus who were waiting impatiently for an opportunity and that materialized when Mrs Gandhi was murdered by two of her Sikh body guards.

The assassination threat on Mrs Gandhi was on the air since last June, when the leader of the Sikh extremists, Dr Jagjit Singh Chouhan, directed it in a press conference in London and which was broadcast by the BBC. He still maintains that "she deserved it" and threatened that "Rajiv will face the same fate". The British government reportedly charged the so-called self-styled President of the Khalistan with criminal conspiracy, but they failed to prosecute him for lack of evidence.

The terrorists' threat on the lives of Mrs Gandhi and her family began to intensify following her government's decision to send the troops to the Golden Temple, Amritsar, to wipe out the extremists from the 17th century holy shrine. It was forced upon the Indira government by the subversive forces, who wanted a separate state on the north western frontier of India. Their demand was strengthened when the Sikh political party Akali Dal joined hands with the secessionists. Akali Dal put forward its demands for more political and religious autonomy for Punjab. Indira's government acceded to the religious demands but reserved the decisions on the political demands for fear of a rally of such demands from other state governments, and that could affect the centre-state relations and unity of the country. Akali Dal, instead of resolving the issues through peaceful means, connived with the extremists group headed by a self styled Saint, Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwala, and resorted to violence.

They killed moderate Sikhs and Hindus who opposed extremism. Journalists, police and civil officials were not spared. The Holy shrines were converted into ordnance depots. Eventually Indira Gandhi had to send the army into the temple, to nip the secessionist movement in the bud, to avoid further country-wide violence — a Hindu-Sikh strife at a large scale.

Following the assassination of Indira Gandhi, the relation between the Hindus and the Sikhs — a break away sect of Hindu-



Mrs Gandhi's happy days with her father Nehru: From father to daughter, daughter to son



Mrs Gandhi used to receive Sikh petitioners: Sikhs were responsible for her death

ism, has further worsened. Indira Gandhi has been secular. She married a Parsee, Feroze Gandhi — not related to Mahatma Gandhi in 1942. Her elder son, the present prime minister of India, married an Italian Christian while her second son Sanjay, who was killed in an air crash, married a Sikh. Thus her house celebrated secularism in every sense.

Mrs Gandhi with her successor and son Rajiv before her assassination

adherence to discipline. Apart from that he has ordered the dismissal of the Lt. Governor of Delhi, who was responsible for maintenance of law and order in the capital. All these decisions exhibit his pragmatic approach to the problems.

Destruction of Sikh properties and business houses would affect the economy — though negligible — of the country to some extent. Mr Gandhi will have to resolve the problems of the states, their demands for more autonomy so as to establish a strong centre-state relations. Apart from that the regional and ethnic violence that struck parts of the country very often would have to be controlled.

Whether Rajiv would be able to tackle the issues is yet to be determined. Despite all such problems, Mrs Gandhi had been able to keep the nation united. Her charisma and dynamism elevated her to the high echelons of Indian political domain, while her shrewd political tactics and pragmatism celebrated herself as an undisputed leader of India. Mrs Gandhi's capabilities are acclaimed all over the world, and it was established when she was elected to head the 101 nation Non-Alignment Movement.

But her firm handling of crisis and her refusal to bow to pressures made her many enemies, and that brought her end.

Rajiv Gandhi, though, has an impeccable political pedigree but has little experience in the government. He is widely hailed as "Mr Clean", in the party circles, who could bring new integrity to the Indian political scene.

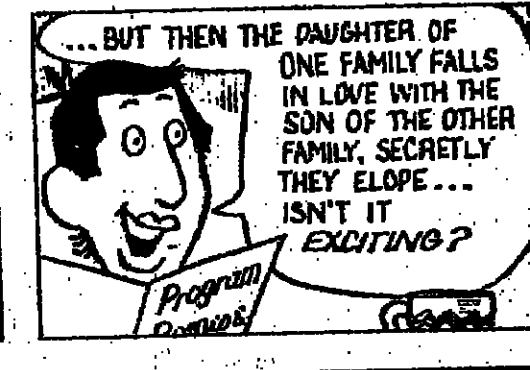
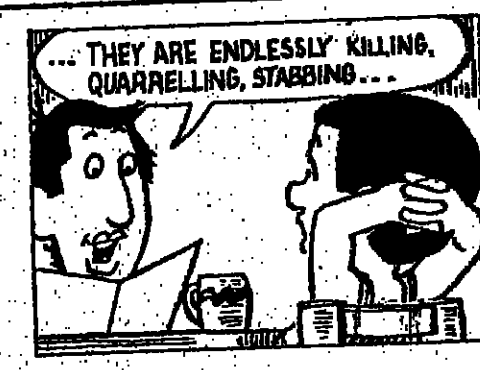
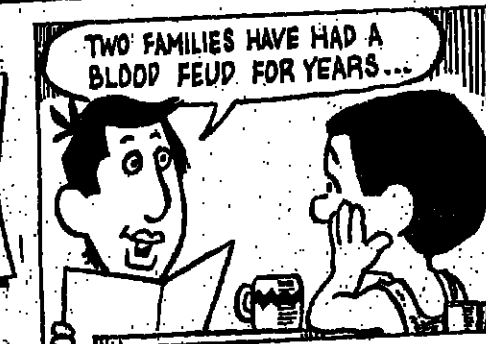
However, it is a great challenge to him and he will have to display whatever hidden talents he may have, now, to tackle the rising level of the ethnic and regional violence while keeping the accepted democratic practices unaltered. The country is the

world's largest democracy and has been self conscious about it and sensitive of any attack on its democratic foundations. This was evident from the 1977 general elections in which Mrs Gandhi was overthrown, because of her 21-month emergency rule.

Now, with few months short of the next general elections, Rajiv Gandhi and his cabinet, consisting of almost all the old faces of his mother's cabinet, would be concentrating on the domestic scene. His decision to induct all the old politicians may be, probably, to avoid dissensions in the party's rank and file. However, the party which was losing its popularity in the South of India and even in certain north Indian states, would muster more support following the murder of Mrs Gandhi. The common voters, out of sympathy, would vote for the Congress (I), now.

On foreign affairs, he is unlikely to make any substantial decisions for the time being at least. But there could be a Western slant in the future. Acceptance of the invitation offered by the US Secretary of State, George Shultz to visit the United States early next year indicates his intention to better Indo-US relations.

He has impressed the Western leaders by his dynamism and determination, when they called on him in New Delhi after the funeral of Mrs Gandhi. Mrs Thatcher said "I admire his courage and dignity and deep sorrow," while the remarks of Shultz were "though with a sort of quiet strength, I found him reassuring." However, one cannot expect him to change the foreign policy towards the US so long as the Americans are militarily tied up with Pakistan, while India maintains a strong friendship treaty with the USSR in force.



US hopes for Namibia breakthrough

By Allister Sparks

JOHANNESBURG (ONN) — Fresh Angolan proposals that could break the deadlock in the drawn-out Namibian independence negotiations will be put to South Africa this week at a meeting with American intermediaries on the Cape Verde Islands.

The proposals are thought to include an Angolan offer to present a time-table for the phased removal of the 25,000 Cuban troops on its territory, in return for South Africa committing itself to a date when it will start implementing United Nations Resolution 435 to give Namibia its independence.

This would meet the joint American-South African demand for Cuban withdrawal as a precondition for Namibia's independence, which both countries say is the last obstacle in the way of a settlement. The date of the talks has not been disclosed, but I am informed that they will take place this week between South African Foreign Minister P.W. Botha and the US Assistant Secretary of State for Africa, Chester Crocker.

Angola will not participate at this stage, since the talks are essentially to get South Africa's reaction to what the Americans hope is a breakthrough offer by the Luanda Government. The

Angolan offer follows a series of meetings in Luanda between President Jose Eduardo dos Santos and Crocker's deputy, Frank Wisner.

Wisner returned to Washington with the new Angolan proposals on 18 October, a few days after President Dos Santos had told a senior editor of the "Washington Post" in an unprecedented interview that he was prepared to work with the United States in seeking a package deal that would lead to Namibia's independence and the removal of the Cuban troops from his own country. Dos Santos followed this up by dismissing his hardline Marxist Foreign Minis-

ter, Paolo Jorge, last week. Jorge has been a key figure in resisting the US demand for the removal of the Cubans.

South Africa and Angola reached an agreement last February in terms of which South Africa would withdraw some 20,000 troops occupying a large sector of southern Angola, in return for the establishment of a Joint Monitoring Commission to prevent SWAPO guerrillas moving through this vacated territory into Namibia.

The withdrawal proceeded smoothly until the South Africans reached a town called Ngiva, 25 miles north of the border, where they stopped. South



P.W. Botha

Africa says it halted because SWAPO guerrillas were still passing through the vacated zone. It also wants Angola to agree to an ongoing joint border patrol to stop the guerrillas crossing into Namibia after its withdrawal is complete.

The offer Wisner is thought to have brought back from Luanda is an agreement to have such an ongoing border patrol, provided South Africa commits itself to a date to start implementing Resolution 435 within a month or two of completing its withdrawal. Angola does not want to be in a position of putting an indefinite squeeze on SWAPO.

Luanda is also demanding a total cut-off of South African aid to Jonas Savimbi and his Unita guerrillas in Angola. To open the way for South Africa to make this commitment on 435, Dos Santos is prepared to come forward with a timetable for a phased withdrawal of the Cubans that would coincide with the phased withdrawal of South African troops from Namibia, required by the UN resolution as it is implemented.

This is technically acceptable to South Africa, but the Pretoria government would prefer an arrangement whereby, instead of following the procedures set out in Resolution 435, SWAPO would first become part of an all-party interim Government in Namibia, with independence elections following later under the supervision of an expanded Joint Monitoring Commission instead of the United Nations. This is the issue that will be thrashed out at this week's meeting with the American intermediaries before a further meeting is held with the Angolans.

Election races topped 1 billion dollars

By Christopher Connel

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Federal Election Commission estimated that the final tab for the US Presidential House of Representatives and Senate races decided Tuesday topped 1 billion dollars.

That is up from 795 million dollars spent on the 1982 House and Senate campaigns and 788 million dollars in 1980 for the presidential, house and senate races. Herbert C. Alexander, a university of California political science professor, estimated the total cost of all US elections this year.

Upwards of 200 million dollars was spent on the race for the White House alone, including more than 120 million dollars by the two principal contenders, President Ronald Reagan and Walter F. Mondale.

VIEWPOINT

How to break a vicious circle

By Ya'acoub Jaber

ISRAEL HAS just embarked on a three-month economic austerity programme involving a total freeze on wages and prices in what could be the latest bid to curb inflation which last month reached a record rate of 800 per cent. An aide to Prime Minister Shimon Peres said that the future of the coalition government depends on the success of the programme. This means that the government, which groups the Labour, the Likud and several smaller parties in a fragile coalition may collapse in a three-month time if the new attempt to achieve economic recovery fails.

There are very few signs that the austerity programme will succeed. Differences between the government and the labour union over interpretation of the plan's provisions will continue to erupt. In addition, the freeze is bound to further complicate the unemployment problem.

Besides the domestic element, the plan's success could be impeded by outside factors which might have not been taken into account because of their unpredictable changeable nature. Israel, for instance, may have to prolong its military occupation of South Lebanon and thus continues to bear the heavy financial burdens if negotiations with Lebanon over withdrawal break down.

In the meantime, the United States which has undertaken a major effort in an attempt to heal Israel's ailing economy, including turning billions of dollars of aid into unrepayable grants, can do very little to further help Israel if the austerity programme proves unsuccessful. In such a case, the reality of Israel as a state which owes its survival to foreign aid becomes more apparent than ever before. The question becomes one of an unnatural entity bent on territorial expansion, high military expenditure and a colonization process which far exceeds its financial, economic and human assets.

Failure of the austerity plan can be expected to bring down Israel's coalition cabinet whose continuation clearly hinges on the achievement of a speedy economic recovery. The collapse of the government will inevitably lead to a new general election which could also end up in conclusively and plunge Israel into political chaos. The vicious circle is very likely to continue and even expand.

But perhaps only then the Israelis may reach the conclusion that solutions to their chronic problems lies in abandoning military arrogance and acceptance of the fact that their survival depends on living under the umbrella of a just and comprehensive peace. The Israelis may not come to realize this, but there will be no alternative in sight.

Much depends on the United States which can play a major role in bringing about such realization. The Americans, after all, have interest in reaching this conclusion. Among other things, they can spare some of their taxpayers' money to create jobs for the unemployed.

Middle East Editorial Opinion

THE CAUSE of peace in the Middle East, Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon, the assassination of Indian Prime Minister Mrs Indira Gandhi and the crisis in OPEC were leading subjects in the Arab press this week.

Al-Ahram, the Cairo newspaper, reiterates President Husni Mubarak's call on the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) to come up with a peace initiative of its own.

It says that such initiatives should be formulated in complete independence from pressure from any Arab country if it is deemed to be effective, convincing and impressive.

"The Palestinian problem is the essence of the Middle East conflict and lies at the heart of the Arab-Israeli dispute and therefore it is unreasonable to see peace plans being forwarded by non-Palestinian parties while the Palestinians themselves do not submit their own initiative", Al-Ahram said.

It expresses the belief that the proposed initiative will meet positive response from the European community and will be listened to carefully by the rest of the world.

Al-Akhabar, another Egyptian newspaper, writes that the basis of peace and justice requires that Israel should withdraw immediately and unconditionally from Lebanon. It says that none believes under the present circumstances that Israel will be exposed to commando operations after withdrawal but on the contrary, Israel is being exposed now to such operations because of its presence in the South.



Naji Al-Ali

maintaining the price of oil. It says that the organization has proved anew its resilience and ability to foil plots against its integrity and cohesion.

Jordanian press

Ad-Dustour newspaper in Amman lauds the great achievements of Indira Gandhi

Israeli Press

Al-Hamishmar said this week that retaliatory acts similar to the attack on the Arab bus should be condemned, and it is the duty of the police to bring those responsible to court. "All implications indicate that there are clandestine cells of Jewish terrorists that are still active."

There are rightist circles operating in the open in favour of the detained Jewish terrorists, the paper said. Any tolerance towards those Jewish detainees will only encourage further acts of violence, it concluded.

On the Lebanon affair Maariv said the government's decision to continue negotiations with the US to arrange for withdrawal from Lebanon should be welcomed. It said that still, Israel cannot set the date for pullout because the American presidential elections will delay any American mediation.

Despite the impressions expressed by Richard Murphy following his recent visit to Damascus, negotiations with Syria will take a long time. Above all, there are no guarantees that Syria will accept Israeli terms, the paper added.

Davar comments on the visit by Sir Jeffrey Howe to Israel last week, which was the third visit by a British foreign minister since the establishment of the State of Israel. "No British prime minister had visited us officially and our relations with Britain fluctuated up and down," the paper said.

As it looks, the network of Arab-British economic relations stands as an obstacle in the road of positive movement. The Arab-British relations did not weaken even after decreasing dependence on Arab oil with the discovery of the North Sea oilfields. It added.

Haretz concentrated on the issue of forming a Knesset committee to defend Jewish terrorists and says is a very serious step. "Any support rendered to terrorists is a breach of the law. Setting up such a Knesset committee is meant to influence the court's decisions. What is the purpose from setting up this committee in the wake of the attack on the Arab bus? It is greatly surprising to see a Labour representative in the committee," the paper charged.

The involvement of Labour with the Likud in the coalition government will force upon it to sympathise with pro-terrorist elements who kill innocent Arabs, it concluded.

Kol Haiv commenting on the Arab bus attack said: "We have heard the Police Minister, Haim Barlev, and others denounce the attack on the Arab bus. This is not enough. We must have the Israeli political and social systems condemn Jewish terrorism."

"It is regrettable that sections of the Israeli public and the Israeli establishment are sympathising with the Jewish underground movement. Naturally this situation provides a comfortable grounds for further retaliations against Arabs," it said.



Maariv

Al-Ittihad, at Abu Dhabi, lashes at the US decision to supply Israel with 75 F-16 planes, saying that America seems to have celebrated the anniversary of the Balfour declaration in a special way designed to reaffirm its commitment to a superior Israel. It notes that while America is consolidating the credibility of its pledges to Israel, it in the meantime erodes the credibility of its promises to the Arabs, including those who are not hostile to Washington.

Al-Bayan newspaper of Dubai also condemns the supply of the US planes to Israel, saying that the decision refutes all US claims about its endeavours to reach peace in the region. It adds that what the US actually seeks is imposing the kind of peace advocated by Israel.

By supplying Israel with these weapons, the United States is trying to impose surrender on the Arabs and subjugating them by force," writes the paper.

Al-Arab, the Qatari newspaper, writes that Third World countries have sustained a major loss by the death of Indian Prime Minister Mrs Indira Gandhi who bravely defended democracy and the rights of the oppressed throughout the world. It adds that the death of Indira could lead to disastrous repercussions on the balances of power in that region.

Aswaq Al-Khaleej, a Qatari weekly newspaper, expresses satisfaction at OPEC's decision to lower production with view to

at both the domestic and international levels and voices fear that her absence may jeopardize peace and stability in India and in Asia in general. It says that her death has left a major political vacuum that cannot be easily filled by her successor.

The paper calls on Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, the new Indian Prime Minister, to step up his efforts to place the internal situation under firm control and restore balance to India's foreign relations at both the Asian and international levels, and expresses the hope for more consolidated Indian-Arab relations in the coming era.

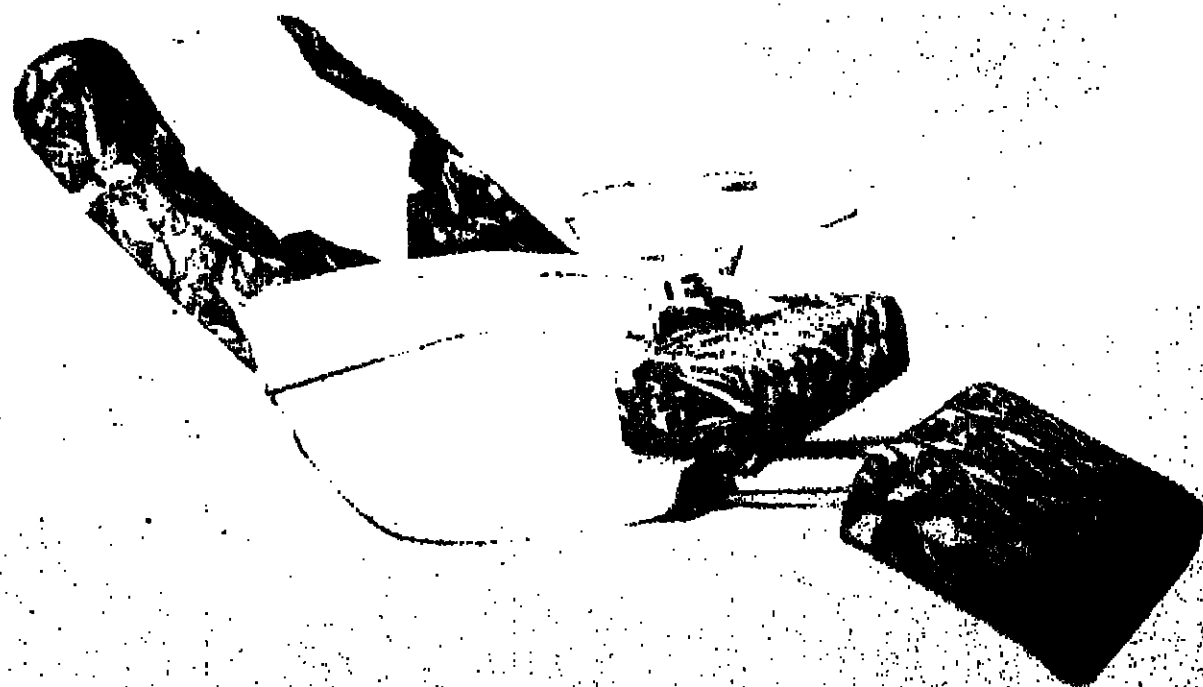
Al-Ra'i newspaper comments on a statement by former Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky in which he says that US Secretary of State George Shultz had told him that the US was preparing a new initiative aimed at narrowing the gap between the US and Jordan. It says that the US should be reminded that it is she who has been responsible for creating such gap, not only with Jordan, but also with the whole Arab world.

"If America is to bridge the gap, it should respond favourably to the UN secretary general's call at the General Assembly for finding a just solution to the Palestinian problem based on recognition of the Palestinian's right to self-determination and to Jordan's demand for holding an international conference on peace in the Middle East", Al-Ra'i writes.

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The Reagan era

THE RE-ELECTION of Mr Ronald Reagan to a second term as president of the United States is creating a heated debate here in the Middle East on whether Mr Reagan can change his country's policies towards the Arab countries and causes for the better or pursue an even more concerted effort in the support of an Israel that has gone too far in its occupation of Lebanon and other Arab lands.

The arguments revolve around one main characteristic that Mr Reagan now has, which was unavailable to the presidents before him like Mr Ford and Mr Carter namely: A second term in office. This, the argument continues, releases Mr Reagan from any pressure whatsoever since he will not be running for re-election in 1988. The optimists say that Mr Reagan will not need to bow before Zionist pressures and needs and that now he will have the time to pursue an even-handed policy in the Middle East — one that serves America's interest first and which at the same time satisfies Arab rights and creates natural balance of power in the region. The optimists refer to Mr Reagan's announcement, Wednesday morning, that he will call for a summit meeting with Soviet leaders to discuss world problems and seek ways to solve them peacefully.

The pessimists on the other hand say that now that Mr Reagan will not have to worry about his prospects of winning the next elections but he will have to release his energy on fulfilling what he has been preaching for a long time and that is a strong Israel and a confrontation against the Soviets (communist evils) whenever they appear to threaten the free world's frontiers i.e., Central America, the Middle East and the Gulf region, the Indian sub-continent and South East Asia.

The same people who see an imminent doom in Mr Reagan's re-election argue that now that Mr Reagan is on top of things in Washington, he will do his best to fight what he sees as threats against the Free world and will not have time to worry about a small unimportant matter like the Palestinian question or the building of settlements on what Israel regards as its land.

So where do we go from there? Recent past tells us that Mr Reagan has failed in every respect to establish peace and harmony in the area. During his first term, Israel invaded Lebanon, occupied its southern parts, destroyed its capital and killed thousands in the process and even brought the two superpowers to a state of armed confrontation. Mr Reagan's administration proved to be incapable of solving the problem, but in fact it made it more critical when it chose to involve itself in the struggle militarily and had to accept a humiliating defeat.

On Palestinian rights Mr Reagan refused to even recognise the most simple and natural of these rights. His administration was so supportive of Israel under all circumstances that even America's allies in the region had to condemn it and attack the American foreign policies in the area.

Mr Reagan will have to work hard and prove a lot before the optimists can sit on their optimism and hope for the best. The pessimists should not just bet they are right, but must work hard to prevent their prophecies from coming true. Mr Reagan can do a lot for peace just as for war.

The task of Rajiv

SPECULATIONS are in the air over the possibility of improving the Indo-US relations following the change in the Indian political hierarchy. Mr Rajiv Gandhi, 40, the youngest prime minister India ever had, with his Western outlook may play an even-handed policy towards Moscow and Washington.

However, until he establishes himself as the leader of the nation, which is plagued with ethnic and regional violence, by exercising strict discipline and determination that he developed from his career as a technocrat and the political pedigree he inherited from his mother and grand father, Rajiv is unlikely to make any deviation from the present policy.

Economy of India is stabilized on a strong industrial base, but riots and violence such as the one erupted last week could deteriorate the economy. The violence had, for a while, even struck the conscience of the foreign bankers, who had deferred the payments, for fear of instability.

The capital and other cities have returned to normalcy and the ruling Congress (I) party is likely to elect Rajiv Gandhi as their party's president. In an effort to avoid dissensions and to strengthen the party he inducted all the old faces into the cabinet. This decision catches momentum in view of the forthcoming general elections.

Apart from that, Rajiv is inexperienced in government and therefore, he may have to stick to the policies exercised by his mother, who had a strict adherence to socialism and control over economy, until he makes himself acquainted with the superpower politics. India's instability is a threat to peace in the sub-continent and hence any move he may initiate, should be a cautious and judicious one.



A letter from Geneva:

Petitioning for peace in the Middle East

By Carrie Nelle Thompson
Star Geneva Correspondent

GENEVA — One year from now on 29 November, 1985, the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian people, will deliver a petition bearing what is hoped to be millions of names of persons urging "due recognition of the right of the Israeli and Palestinian peoples to statehood and self-determination" as well as demanding an international peace conference regarding the Middle East.

The petition will be presented to the Secretary General of the United Nations. This is the major result of a Geneva-held two days symposium of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) on the question of Palestine.

The series of meetings had been convened by the committee on the exercise of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people.

Nothing that "the unresolved Arab-Israeli conflict, the core of which is the question of Palestine, and other Middle East conflicts pose a threat to world peace", the 15 world experts urged that yet another international peace confer-

ence be held which would be attended by "all parties to the conflict, including the representatives of Israel, the Palestine Liberation Organization... Arab states (which are) party to the conflict, the United States of America and the Soviet Union, under the auspices of the United Nations as called for by General Assembly resolutions."

To underline the increasing seriousness of their demand, the delegates asserted that the Middle East is a nuclear weapons zone and that it is an explosive environment "where a chain of events could lead to world war III".

Being well aware that any new conference would meet in a situation of pessimism, cynicism and hostility — as has been true each time an attempt at peace has been initiated — the participants noted they would counter "the misperception and mistrust that plague the Middle East" by circulating a petition throughout the world, offering individuals of every nation "a chance to be peacemakers and help restore the rights of suffering peoples." Such an endeavour represents a new tactic in the years long struggle to facilitate peace in the beleaguered Middle East.

letters

Thermal station: economical?

To the editor:
YOUR article "New Steam Unit Inaugurated at Hussein Thermal Power Station" (November 1-7, 1984) renews doubts as to whether this cooled thermal power station is the most economical method for generating electricity.

The fact that it is the largest station of its kind in the world does not justify its expediency. Jordan, with its meager reserves of water and its entire dependence upon fuel from neighbouring oil producing countries, should start thinking seriously about cheaper means and ways of producing electricity.

All concerned and at all levels should review the projects of JEA whether under way or in blueprint to ascertain their economic feasibility.

George N. Saig,
Amman.

Taxes on presents

To the editor:

As a concerned citizen, I have a complaint regarding the customs duties newly alloted to small presents coming in the mail to the Parcel Post Dept. here in Jordan.

During the past 20 years there was no duty on presents up to the value of JD 10. But this morning, however, I was asked to pay JD 8 on goods worth JD 15 — a present from my eldest son to my youngest son. When I complained that this was a present of no commercial value and was not for trade purposes, I was told to ask the Ministry of Finance on customs matters.

I duly made my enquiries to the Under Secretary. I was informed that the law has been changed and that all goods are now taxed, and that if I wanted the parcel I would just have to go and pay up.

I do feel that this is most unjust on principle, and that reasonable legislative steps should be taken to reverse this, as this is an injustice directed towards the citizen.

Mrs Susan Awelarin
Amman



Neo-barbarism: The condition of the human race

Greetings to Jerusalem!

AN ATMOSPHERE of fear and crisis pervades the entire world; within and between nations. Perhaps at no time in the recorded history of mankind has the fear been so real, all pervasive and comprehensive.

The modern technology of the mass media, the television, the newspapers, and the transistor radio, have helped in deepening this sense of insecurity and terror. A realisation, almost subconscious, seems to have settled on mankind, that judgement day, now in the hands of man as much as God, is close at hand, any day now and, that it may not happen by divine will but through the arrogant stupidity of mortal human beings.

No individual seems to be safe from this terrible possibility; a possibility that has caused peoples and governments to behave more irrationally than ever. Internationally we have reverted to the law of the jungle and regress rather than progress is at hand. Small nations as well as large and powerful ones have made a mockery of principles once held in high esteem.

Not only Israel and South Africa, but powerful countries that once sponsored the principles of self-determination, respect for international law and order, have come to look with impatience, disdain, even contempt upon these principles along with those of the Geneva Conventions or the charter of the United Nations.

We stock weapons, conventional, atomic, nuclear and others against each other and in the name of national security; the security of the Warsaw Pact or NATO. Irrationally we find rationalisations for mass destruction to come; A mass destruction that will surely come should this path we follow not be diverted; Tons of nuclear matter, each destructive of whole nations for every individual anywhere on the face of this earth. Money that should have been spent to better the human condition is blindly spent and will continue to be spent, no doubt, on its potential destruction.

With wise planning and an intelligent approach to the problems of humanity a better future can be accomplished. Basic necessities can be provided for all and there need not be famine in one place while there is over production and dumping in another.

Is it a philosopher's dream or the illusion of a visionary to hope that present trends be slowed, halted and eventually reversed? What will it take to convince the American that he can co-exist with the Russian or vice versa. Or, what will it take to convince the Israeli that his security is not in more weapons or further expansion? How did it come about that with all this technology we have advanced so little morally or on the human side?

These questions and others like them are not purely philosophical or academic. Any newspaper in Amman, Manila, Accra or New York gives an indication of the debasement to which human nature has sunk. Indira Gandhi was shot not by "enemies" but by men, her own guards with whom she had eaten bread and salt. Men who knew her for so many years, perhaps even better than her son could ever have known her. The priest in Poland, found beaten and mutilated was murdered by men who should have been his protectors. Who is the "enemy"? The ruler or the ruled, and how did it come about that violent death has become so much a part of life?

Several layers of fear and insecurity have settled upon us to such a degree that we humans seem to have lost sight of the purpose or the direction of life. Total annihilation with one big bang is one level, yet others of lesser or greater immediate or more immediate degrees abound. The aggression is almost always justified and rationalized. The aggression or the abuse on the international, national and even individual level, is often so brutal as to make us baser than the beasts upon which we look down.

No human being seems to be safe in his bed anymore; not in Africa, not in the Middle East or elsewhere in the world. The governments are not only enemies of each other but enemies of their own people as well and likewise, every human being is the potential enemy of every other. And like the British philosopher, Thomas Hobbes remarked, life has become "nasty, brutish and short".

When the great pass away

Henry Matar

IT IS nothing inconsistent with the main trend of world current events, nor with the uniqueness of the general set-up of personal character, that such a great political figure as the late Mrs Indira Gandhi should meet the tragic end she did.

A good many marks that have been lately printed on the page of currently recorded history are pointing to regression from the right path of historical progress. Over the last four years or so, the world has witnessed the prevalence of the anomalous human career towards human moral suicide. A number of aggressive campaigns, launched simply for the sake of aggression, expansionism and narrow nationalistic domination, have appeared on the screen of world contemporary history.

Most flagrant instigation of disrespect for human rights to self-discrimination and for the very meaning of the human sense of justice has been the Zionist occupation of Palestine, the displacement of its native inhabitants, and later on the invasion of Lebanon and the encouragement of the fragmentation of Lebanese territory and of the flaring up of sectarian feuds. Nothing can compare with the tragic political game that is being played in the Middle East except the parallel anomalous direct and indirect support of Apartheid in black South Africa.

Here masses are being crushed down, physically killed and suppressed only for the colour of their skin; territory is being occupied and sometimes devastated or at least impoverished just to prove the supremacy and domination of out-dated obsolete ideologies of the past.

It is in particular the Third World that is economically weakened and physically sapped by the greed of world domination. One blow after another is

being so harshly directed against the very staple roots of economic development of this Third World that almost everywhere you direct your look, you find worries, troubles and vicious attempts at instigating all sorts of ethnic, religious or factional power-seeking feuds. And all this wicked turmoil is being effected against an overwhelming majority of the world's nations.

Defiantly seated on top of this jungle-like situation is the war-god of Mars armed to the teeth with the most destructive and most suicidal weaponry history has known throughout man's history, namely that of nuclear armament. Political crime and officially-sponsored terrorism have become the theme which the head giant superpower is boasting about nowadays. It is the age of the powerful cane.

If anything that late Mrs Indira Gandhi has stood for and has laid down her whole being for can be singled out, it is the ever-renewed tenacious fight against the impacts of political wickedness that have been stirred up over the last quarter of a century. The struggle that she was engaged in ever since she took over the political leadership of India has been fought on all various levels: the worldly, regional and local. Hers was never a fragmented or split narrow vision. She was endowed with an all-round vision that never allowed its division into compartmental components.

Hence came her leadership of the positive, Non-Aligned Movement, her struggle for the advancement of the Third World, her solid stand against racial, ethnic, social as well as

supranationalistic fascist anomalies, and above all her unwavering belief in the unity and in the democratically oriented future of India. All elements of her political theory were interactively and interlappingly functional. What a tremendous overload of principles that very few spirits, like that of this unique woman, could ever manage to cope with!

It seems that hers was a saintly mission that she had to perform, having inherited it from such worthy masters as her father, Jawaharlal Nehru, and Mahatma Gandhi. And it was such seemingly saintly mission, as especially carried out for the unity of India that occasioned her self-sacrifice. It is again this mission that puzzles so many people about the ways and means she often behaved and employed. It is enigmatic, for example, why she should have insisted on maintaining Sikhs among her bodyguards when she had received threats of assassination a short time before she was attacked. Only her belief in the principles of the almost saintly mission she carried does explain the way she behaved.

Such conformity to the principle of racist or sectarian non-discrimination seems to be beyond the range of human understanding.

The question subsequently arises whether Mrs Gandhi lived ahead of her time. Most probably, she did. Hence no obstacles of misunderstanding and no detrimental forces acting contrary to her visualisation, of things could have happened. Yes, she was ahead of her time in a way. Herein lies the very core of her tragedy. As to the other question whether or not her mission she undertook to carry is going to bear fruit, the whole thing depends upon the lessons the suffering masses of the world — including those of India — are expected to learn from her unique life and death.

Memorandum

By Osama El-Sherif



Issues and elections

THE AMERICAN elections are over. Mr Ronald Reagan is back at the White House, while Mr Mondale prepares himself for a quiet life as a private citizen. The millions of dollars that were spent on campaigning and promotion are no longer of use to the losers and after the polls are closed, on the evening of November the Sixth, and the results announced, the excitement lessens and the joy disappears. Life returns to normal and people prepare themselves to deal with facts, not with promises and illusions.

Here we were told to wait until after the elections. And since, there was not much we can do, we waited, prayed and hoped that things will come out in our favour. We were told that Mr Reagan is better than Mr Mondale. A president who is less friendly with us is far much better than "one who is very hostile to us". So we memorized the lines and repeated them like parrots in every salon and coffee shop. Slowly we became fervent supporters of Mr Reagan against his rival Mr Mondale. We became expert in promoting our candidate and listing his good deeds and merits.

And then the great day came and went. We woke up in the morning of the seventh day: Sleepy, lazy and hungry. We tuned to the radio and there it all was: Mr Reagan wins a

landslide victory. Our cause is served and our goals fulfilled and the man we were told to hate and fear is back at the Oval office preparing himself for new conquests and victories. We could not fight Mr Reagan even with our hearts and wishes for many of us were told to wish that he wins and dream that he returns, for in his return lies the salvation and in his resurrection for a second term is the hope for securing and restoring our rights.

Now that he is back. Our eyes turn to him across the seven seas where he rules the land of America. We wait for the promises to be delivered and the hopes to be fulfilled. We expect him to change just because he made it for a second term. We believe so naively that justice and goodwill will visit us after so many decades of war and bloodshed. We think that their eyes will open and they will see the truth, their ears will begin to pick up the sounds and cries of the hungry and the injured, their noses will smell death and disease, and their conscience search to correct what is wrong and destroy what is evil. We can believe in this from now until the end of life, but it will never be true, just like Mr Reagan dreams of the old America that made freedom, democracy and justice its symbol and slogan.

Handwritten signature or note in the right margin.

WASHINGTON — Assuming, as I do, that President Reagan is going to score a resounding electoral victory, the question arises what this may mean for the Middle East.

The easy answer is that in his second term Mr Reagan will be free from re-election pressure, free from worry about what AIPAC and all the other pro-Israel PACS may think and do, and that he will thereupon opt for a truly even-handed, pro-American policy. Such a policy would necessarily lead him to put vastly more heat behind his Reagan initiative or a modification of it. He would have to tell the Israelis that they must stop settling the West Bank and that they must come to a Middle East conference, and must accept the results thereof.

Logically there can be no question about such a procedure. The Israelis are economically and politically, probably even militarily, totally dependent on the United States and must do what the United States tells them. But in fact, of course, logic does not always prevail in US-Israeli relations. Inscrutable forces, represented by the pro-Israel lobby combined with an enormous grass roots bible-belt pro-Israel sentiment, often knocks logic quite askew.

In this case the future may depend on who the president selects as his national security advisor. While Judge Clark held this post he seemed to be channelling good advice to the president. Since McFarlane took over the post does not seem to be producing much, and the president may well be looking for another man for the post.

In any case there are signs that something is stirring in terms of Middle East policy in anticipation of Reagan victory. Assistant Secretary Murphy is already in the Middle East attending in the first place to the urgent business of getting the Israelis to withdraw from Southern Lebanon. It almost seems as though the Israelis would like to have him and other American officials bogged down forever in this withdrawal problem so that they don't go on to the larger and more important business of general Middle East negotiations and the future of the West Bank.

Nonetheless the larger picture must be on Murphy's mind as it is on the minds of

Will Reagan revive the peace initiative?

A view from America

Dana Adamis Schmitt

State and Defence Department officials here. The feeling here is that if the Reagan administration does not manage to move on to the big problems of the Middle East early in the new term it will be inviting big trouble.

What big trouble? War between Israel and Syria. That's where the tension is, and the threat.

For the time being administration spokesmen continue to say that the only right way to move ahead in the Middle East is in terms of the Reagan 1 September, 1982 initiative. They say that would bring together Israel and Jordan and some kind of Palestinian representation, and the United States to talk about the West Bank. But some of the capital's best Middle East diplomats and specialists keep asking how such a conference, which excludes Syria, could possibly reach a satisfactory conclusion (even assuming that the Israelis would attend and a solution would be found to Palestinian representation).

The way out, they say, is to expand the conference, bringing in Syria and perhaps Saudi Arabia. Or, better, to turn to the United Nations and revive the old Middle East conference of 1975. That would also

bring in the Soviet Union and the various members of the Security Council.

Saudi and Jordanian diplomats maintain that this is the only way to go because Soviet participation and acquiescence in the outcome is essential — more essential even than Syrian participation — because if the United States continues to insist on pushing for what is essentially a Pax Americana, the Soviet Union and its Syrian friends will surely sabotage the outcome.

Students of the Carter administration say that former President Carter had in mind such a UN conference when President Sadat of Egypt pre-empted his plans by flying to Jerusalem and eventually coming to terms with the Israelis.

It may seem craven to put it this way, but it would be a great deal easier for the Reagan administration to cope with Israel within the framework of a large conference including the Russians, than it would be at a small Middle Eastern gathering at which the United States would be the only power trying to save the Israelis from their evident internal and external over-expansionism. I allude of course to Israel's excessive domestic consumption resulting in wild inflation and its disastrous and expensive invasion of Lebanon.

Now here's something to take your mind off the election. US expatriates who remember the drive-in movies of the fifties and the sixties and the fun they had with their girl friends must be informed that, alas, the drive-ins are dying.

In 1958 the number of drive-ins across the country peaked at 4,063. Today there are only about 2,600 left, and declining steadily. In the Washington area the number is 10, down from 18 or 19 in 1958.

Why? It seems that the price of real estate has gone up, and more could be earned by building shopping centres than by renting space to movie-goers and their cars. Then there is competition from television. And perhaps the younger generation of today doesn't depend so much on the back seat of their car for intimacy they can't indulge elsewhere.

For those who do still go to the drive-ins the fare has deteriorated. Mostly second-run stuff, or XXX-rated,



Time for carpooling?

WE HAVE to admit that we are not energy-conserving people. In all walks of life we act on the mistaken assumption that the diverse sources of energy are everlasting and that we will always enjoy luxury of misusing energy in such an irresponsible manner. It is simply shocking to examine our social attitudes towards energy, and analyze the numerous steps which we can all easily follow to limit our extravagant way of energy consumption.

It has been argued that Jordan's increased consumption of energy is a direct and even "natural" outcome of the economic upsurge which has materialized in our country during the past few years. This could be true. However, one might ask if it is not possible for us to accomplish both goals simultaneously: increased productivity and energy conservation. Many countries which are much more industrialized have done just that.

The United States and Europe also had to be awakened to the fact that energy supply is not infinite during the 1973 oil embargo, or what is referred to as the "energy crisis". These countries started taking drastic measures in their attempts to curb energy consumption. But we do not have to wait for a crisis to arise before we begin to take measures which will bring our irresponsible energy consumption down to a reasonable level: prevention is better than cure. It is hoped, therefore, that the newly-established Ministry of Energy will soon propose and implement steps that will upgrade the public's energy conservation consciousness. It is assumed, of course, that the programme of the new Ministry is twofold: first exploring more sources of energy to meet the country's present and future energy needs. Secondly, the ministry has to pressure and curb energy consumption in the private and public sectors.

In the private sector, electricity is used, in many cases, to help boost some people's inflated image of themselves. Just take a look of Amman at night, and you will notice that a new method of exhibiting one's social status is going on especially in our garden. The more lighting around a house or an outer fence of a mansion or a palace the more money the owner has in the bank, or at least, this is the message he wants to get across. These people should be in the know, however, that they can brag about anything they possess, but energy does not, simply belong to them alone. We are all going to pay the price for their irresponsibility on energy consumption.

The same can be said about the case of water. A housewife who wastes three gallons of water just to wash a tea cup does not know the ABC's of energy. The man who makes a car equally ignorant of the facts of our energy situation.

It is no secret, of course, that our whole region is suffering from a chronic scarcity of water. And it has been revealed that Israel's wars against Arab countries have been motivated largely by the enemy's desire to secure new sources of water. Some experts have even dubbed Israel's repeated aggressions on the Arab world as "water wars".

Oil consumption can also be drastically reduced by using it more rationally in heating homes and as fuel for cars.

THE JERUSALEM STAR

Finance, business & economy



Jordan Finance Consortium Plc

شركة التمويل الأردني

Licensed Deposit Taker

By Ibtisam Dababneh

Star Staff Writer

Consortium to boost Jordanian business

Constant does not believe that it is a real problem and he is optimistic about the new consortium's prospect. Besides that, he said, new banks from all over the world are opening every month in London. Mr Constant told The Star that JFC is a company registered in England in May 1984 and has been licensed by the Bank of England to take deposits as a Licensed Deposit Taker.

This consortium, of which all shareholders and board of directors are Jordanians, has a registered capital of £20 million of which the government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan owns 20% of the share while the shares of other Jordanian financial institutions are:

The Housing Bank — 15%, Bank of Jordan — 6%, Cairo Amman Bank — 6%, Jordan-Gulf Bank — 6%, Jordan Kuwait Bank — 6%, Jordan National Bank — 6%, Petra Bank — 6%, Syrian Jordanian Bank 6%, Arab Jordan Investment Bank 4%, Finance & Credit Corporation — 4%, Jordan Investment and Finance Corporation — 4%, Jordan Securities Corporation — 4%, National Financial Investment Company — 4%, Darco for Investment and Housing Co. — 1 1/2%, and The Real Estate Financing Corporation Ltd. — 1 1/2%.

Board of Directors of the Consortium is composed of — Dr Mohammad Said Nabulsi — Chairman, Mr Zuhair Khouri — Deputy Chairman, Mr Abdel Kadir Al-Qadi — Director, Mr Adnan Darwazah — Director, Mr Jawad Shashna — Director, Mr Maher Shukri — Director and Dr Youssef Zehni — Director. Lettors of comfort have been given to the Bank of England by each shareholder.

According to Mr Constant, the consortium provides all types of commercial services such as: Opening of accounts; deposits; foreign exchange and letters of credit. The consortium can also help Jordan to borrow international loans. He added that until now the Arab Bank is the only Jordanian bank which can borrow loans for Jordan internationally.

Mr Constant said that the bank also provides financial services to Jordanian exporters and importers in trade arrangements throughout the world. The main aim behind the constitution of such a consortium he said, is to provide foreign expertise for the Jordanian banks. Other objectives are to attract Arab investments and to channel them into development projects in Jordan. It will enable its shareholders to operate more efficiently in international business, apart from providing banking services for the Arab community in England.

About the decision to establish the consortium in London, not other country, Mr Constant said that London is the biggest financial centre worldwide and there is always a possibility of expanding this bank to other countries. A lot of expenditure could be avoided by joining the 8 banks into one bank, said Mr Constant. The relationship between this bank and Jordanian banks is a very close one and it is their foreign bank.

Concerning the criticism that the consortium might have unfair access to the Central Bank reserves, Mr Constant commented that the criticism is unjustified. He added that "We are obliged to compete for the deposits from the Central Bank or the shareholders, just like any other bank and there is no favours from the Central Bank". Mr Constant, who was born in Jaffa, in occupied Palestine, and has vast experience in banking sees no disadvantages in establishing such consortium which he believes is a good and successful project. He came to Amman and worked in the Ottoman Bank in 1946 of which he became later the General Manager. Praising his services His Majesty King Hussein awarded him with Istiklal Medal of the second order.

AMMAN — The only problem that might face Jordan Finance Consortium (JFC) which started operating as a full-fledged bank two weeks ago is the competition from other 400 banks in London, said JFC Director General Mr Maurice Constant who visited Amman last week. But, Mr

IN BRIEF

• AMMAN (Star) — The Vice-President of the US Labour Federation for Administration, Mr Robert Hawley, arrived in Jordan for a visit upon the invitation of Transport and Travel Agencies Workers' Union. He called on the Minister of Labour last week and discussed about the development of labour relations and co-operation.

Mr Hawley also had discussions with the union officials on various subjects such as relations between the Union and the US labour federation and expanding training courses on air transport.

• THE MINISTER of Industry discussed with the members of the Aqaba Chamber of Commerce, the co-ordination of co-operation between the Chambers of Commerce and Industry and the Free Zone in Aqaba. In the meeting, attended by the President of the Jordanian Chambers of Commerce, Mr Hamdi al-Talbi, and the Secretary General of the Federation, Mr Amin al-Husseini, the construction of the workers city and supplying of ships were discussed. (Petra)

• THE AUDIT Bureau in the Ministry of Finance has been able to save the treasury amount of JD 65,438 during the past ten months. This amount represents differences revealed after checking customs documents. (Petra)

• THE 9TH gas unit of the Electricity Authority with a generating capacity of 30 megawatt per unit, will be operative on 13 November. The total cost of the unit is JD 4,385,000. A responsible source in the Authority mentioned that these two units (8th and 9th) will be operated at times of emergency — (Ad-Dustour)

• THE CABINET headed by Prime Minister Obaidat has decided to fix the prices of seeds and cereals for next year as follows: —

Purchasing price:
Wheat seeds for planting JD 120
Barley seeds for planting JD 80

Selling price:
Wheat seeds JD 144
Wheat for bread JD 120
Barley for planting JD 90
Barley for fodder JD 75
Lentils JD 180
Chick peas JD 170

• AN AGREEMENT was signed between the Jordanian federation of sports for the handicapped and Elba House company, for the construction of a sports centre for the handicapped on a piece of land allotted by the ministry of youth within al-Husseini sports city.

• THE HOUSING Corporation has secured over 80 housing projects consisting of about 19,000 housing units. About 120,000 beneficiaries, from among the low-income and middle-income categories in addition to others from the civil service sector, farmers and labour will be benefitted. The corporation is planning to build 10,000 units during the coming three years, sources from the corporation disclosed.

• THE SALES of phosphates during the past ten months increased by 33 per cent thus reaching a target of 4,530,000 tonnes compared to the 3,400,000 tonnes during the same period last year.

• THE SOUTH Cement Company's exports during the past five months reached 120,369 tonnes. Out of the last month's sales of 43,926 tonnes, 35,331 tonnes were to Saudi Arabia, 7,535 tonnes to Jordan Cement company and 60 tonnes to charitable organization on donations.

The world major impasse

TWO WORLD wars and all the nightmares threatening the outbreak of a unique third war have, so far proved short of solving the international impasse which started with the existence of man on earth, but has of late disclosed the real dimensions of its ugly and colossal danger since the divorce took place between the "state" and "religion" in Europe by the close of the Middle Ages.

Whether for good or bad, the European nations had no choice to separate themselves from the authority of the church. Because the church adopted fallacious assertions on physical aspects of the earth and universe it became necessary for the world of science to adopt a secular line. Hence was it that the world of science and scientific applications became irreconcilable with religion or moral and ethical values. The church committed most serious and far-reaching gross errors by its adoption of some hypothetical statements as if they had been the final truth accepted by God.

Thence-forward science has been advancing on the account of religious respectability. In the West and East alike the voice and opinion of religion got to be considered as commodities of the past, no more to play any role, or issue any judgments on the activities of man in fields of science and technology. Not only this, but more serious was the fact that religious ethics lost their influence on individual and social behaviour.

The secular personality of the new man is built-up on materialistic considerations. He would only believe what he can

touch or see. He gives little consideration to affairs of confidence, mutual respect and such like stuff which he considers as romantic fabrications of weaker species of human beings.

Opposite this secular trend there has stood always the last greatest heavenly religion of Islam with the text of its Holy Book of Quran absolutely safe of all variations, distortion or contradictions as be took other holy scriptures for various reasons too many to detail now. This religion corrects all such changes introduced on the way of Allah, the worship of the One Omnipotent, All-knowing God, Possessor of everything. It is the self-same religion that Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses and Jesus Christ preached in self-same way against injustice, aggression, misuse of senses and physical organs, adulteration and all criminal behaviours. It bears the same call for self-denial, self-sacrifice, unlimited benevolence and bravery in challenging Satan and Satanic humans.

Yet Islam, being the last religion was so carefully detailed as to cope with all the social, economical, political and other problems and difficulties of human beings on earth. The principles of freedom, justice, fraternity, equality together with the rights of men, the securing of every human against fear, threats, persecution, poverty, grief to evil are all detailed. The means of social purification, the society's responsibility for the upbringing of wholesome circumstances are also detailed. Besides, Islam clarifies all pathologies of its systems for various financial and other aspects of life. How to divide a dead man's inheritance in all situations of

chequered inheritors, how to do worship of prayer, fasting, pilgrimage, and Zaka (obligatory rate of income to the poor) are detailed to the smallest, particular point.

The religion of Islam, while detailing financial and economical ends and means declares war against the misuse and abuse of financial resources. Money and wealth are to be most strictly employed as means for the attainment of Allah's satisfaction so that love and peace may prevail, so that loopholes for the intervention of Satan and Satanic agents should be tightly shut up.

Alliances, contracts and all solemn engagements and commitments have to be most carefully and most faithfully respected. No act of aggression shall be allowed and breach of faith is the worst among crimes. Muslims have to keep true towards all other people and justice for all is same! Muslim or non-Muslim, human rights are the same and require same respect. He who wants to be faithful can be that and he who insists on disbelief can pass unthought so long as he does not activate anti-monothestic propaganda.

The great sanctity of commitments and contracts is Islam's remedy for the restoration of faith and mutual trust among human beings, such as secularism and atheism have destroyed in great parts of the world. Islam also secures impressive social justice without molesting man's freedom and man's ennobling servitude to none but Allah. In this way, a new era can be removed and human credibility regained.

Financial Market Report

By Mamdouh El-Ghaly

THE PRICES continued to rise for the third consecutive week, in the wake of the unprecedented decrease in share prices which tempted speculators to purchase as many shares as they could. For the first time this year, the rise in prices swept almost 70 per cent of companies' shares.

Handling is still low and does not cope with the level of prices. This means that the new rise in prices has tempted many people to refrain from selling on the hope of further increase. On the other hand, demand for shares increased thus leading to further increase in prices. Still, this does not mean that prices will continue to rise.

During this week, 668,000 shares were handled at a market value of JD 758,000 divided among 1380 contracts: an increase of 11.2 per cent compared to last week.

The daily handling average came to 18.8 per cent or 3.8 per cent of total, while the general trend indicates stability.

The shares of 65 companies were handled during the week from which 43 companies gained including: —

- 1 — Jordan Hotels and Tourism closing at JD 3.900 up from JD 3.600
- 2 — Jordan-Gulf Bank at JD 1.840 up from JD 1.700
- 3 — National Financial Investments at JD 0.810 up from JD 0.750
- 4 — Jordan-French Insurance at JD 2.130 up from JD 1.990
- 5 — Aladdin Industries at JD 0.770 up from JD 0.720.

Ten companies lost including: —

- 1 — Jordanian Rock Wool industry at JD 0.800 down from JD 0.870
- 2 — General Insurance at JD 2.300 down from JD 2.500
- 3 — Islamic Bank at JD 2.900 down from JD 3.000.

12 companies had no change in their share prices.

The Star index at closing time came to 257.9; an increase of 3 points or 1.2 per cent increase.

In the over-the-counter market, more than 325,000 shares were handled at a market value of JD 120,000.

Trading in the regular market was distributed among the sector according to the following percentages:

Sector	Market share	Last Week's share
Banks	50.2%	36.2%
Industry	35.7%	55.8%
Services	9.1%	5.7%
Insurance	5%	2.3%

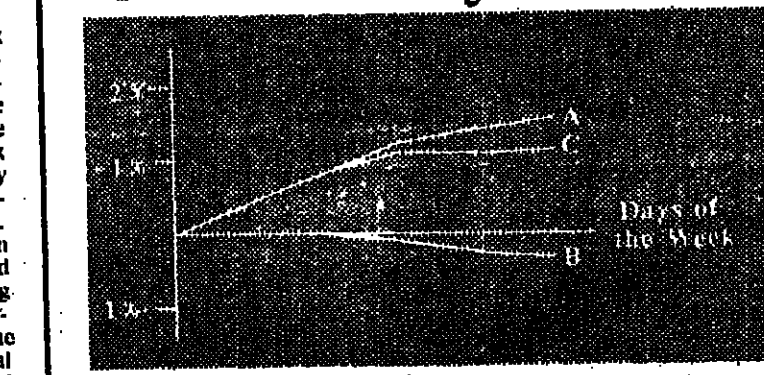
Prominent firms whose shares were traded, by sector

Banks (out of 18 traded)	Share of sector	Share of market
1. Jordan Financing House	14.6%	7.3%
2. National Financial Investments	13.8%	6.9%
3. Jordan-Gulf Bank	10.5%	5.3%

Industrials (out of 31 traded)	Share of sector	Share of market
1. Jordan Industries and Match Co.	10.3%	3.7%
2. Jordan Petroleum Refinery	9.3%	3.3%
3. Jordan Cement Ind.	8.4%	3%
4. Dar al-Dawa Investment and Development	7.9%	2.8%

Services (out of 7 traded)	Share of sector	Share of market
Jordan Electric Power	54.2%	4.9%
Insurance (out of 9 traded)	Share of sector	Share of market
Jordan-French Insurance	47.5%	2.4%

The weekly record



- A. Companies showing an increase in stock prices
- B. Companies with a price decrease
- C. The mean record figure

Jordanian pavilion attracts large crowds

By Ibtisam Dababneh
Star Staff Writer

AMMAN — The flow of visitors, in large number, to the Jordanian pavilion at the 15-day International Fair which was opened at Baghdad last week is a sign of strengthening ties and relationship between Jordan and Iraq, said Dr Mohammad Bani Hani, Director of Jordan Trade Centres, on his return from Baghdad.

Dr Bani Hani expressed the hope that this fair will pave the way to improve the volume of exports between the countries. He added that Jordanian products have a good reputation on the Iraqi market. Even before the fair, contracts were signed between the Iraqi public sector and certain Jordanian companies for selling Jordanian products in Iraq. Dr Bani Hani disclosed. The 129 Jordanian companies who are participating in this fair are not allowed to sell more than 10,000 Iraqi Dinar worth of pro-

ducts directly to both Iraqi public sector and private sector concerns during the period of the fair.

Mr Fared Awad, Secretary General of the Jordan Tobacco and Cigarettes Company Ltd., told The Star that Iraq follows a policy that regulates its foreign imports quotas. He added that Jordanian cigarettes occupy a large portion of the Jordanian exports to Iraq. He said that Iraqi public sector has signed a contract with the Jordan Tobacco and Cigarettes Company Ltd. in October 1984, amounting to \$4 million as an export quota involving only "REEM" brand cigarettes.

This quota is expected to increase by 1985 and likely to reach between \$10-12 million. The quantity of cigarettes involved in this contract for the year 1984 comes to 50,000 boxes each one containing 500 packets. According to Mr Awad,

7,500 boxes have already been exported to Iraq and by February 1985 the rest of the quantity will be exported.

A senior official at the Jordan Industries and Match Company (JIMCO) told The Star that the value of contract signed between JIMCO and Iraqi public sector is \$1,080,000 and the total quantity of matches involved in this contract comes to 60,000 boxes. Half of this quantity have been exported to Iraq and the balance will be exported by the end of this year.

The official pointed out that Iraqi public sector has promised JIMCO to sign another contract worth \$5,000,000 for supply of JIMCO matches during 1985. He added that from June to September 1984, Iraq imported \$2,000,000 worth of matches.

Meanwhile a senior official at JIMCO accused Jordan Trade Centre of claiming 1 per cent commission on the goods to be

traded although such a deal does not fall under the joint Jordanian-Iraqi commercial protocol. According to the official the JTC receives 4 per cent commission on all commercial deals between Jordan and other countries where a commercial protocol is involved. But as the JIMCO contract was signed directly with the Iraqi party, the JTC has no right to claim such a percentage. The official said although this percentage was reduced from 7 per cent to 4 per cent, two years ago, JTC is still trying to claim 7 per cent on deals arranged through them.

Mr Zuhair Asfour, General Director of the Jordan Matches Company Ltd., refused to reveal the value of contract recently signed between the company and Iraqi public sector. On the other hand, The Star has learned the value of this contract is around \$1,000,000. However, Mr Asfour disclosed the total quantity of goods involved which comes to 50,000 boxes of matches.

Air transport and tourism workers to get own houses

Star Staff Writer

AMMAN — A JD 3 million housing project for the Air transport and Tourism Workers' Housing Society (ATWHU) will be implemented on a 120 dunum site in the Amm-Basatine area nearly 25 Km away from Amman. Mr Ahmed Quntar, Society president told The Star that this is the society's first project and for the first time that Air transport employees can have houses of their own. The housing units were designed by the Arab Air Services which is part of Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline.

Mr Quntar said that all Air transport employees whether employed in Alia or any other tourist travel agency can apply for their own home subject to the conditions that they should be Jordanian nationals and are society's members. Applicants should not have own houses in Jordan nor are members of any other housing association. Mr Quntar visited Turkey two weeks ago to seek technical advice whereby the construction cost could be reduced to the minimum from ENKA, a well known Turkish company. "ENKA introduces several new building methods, such as split level villas, that minimize the costs of the retaining walls," he said.

ENKA, on completion of the study of the sites, will officially inform (ATWHU) the results whether to use the split level villas system or any other system they might recommend. Mr Quntar said that they are waiting now for the approval of the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs, which they expect to get within three weeks.

The entire or part of the project is expected to be financed by Social Security Fund (SSF) at an interest rate ranging between 5-6 per cent and with a grace period of two years. However, he added, if the SSF finances only half of the project, then the rest will be financed by a Commercial Bank such as the Housing Bank at an interest rate ranging between 8-9 per cent.

According to Mr Quntar the housing complex will have less than 200 housing units among which 130 units are villas with an area of 150 sq.m. each. 48 units are in the form of apartments in the same areas as the villas. Each villa will cost around JD 22-25,000 while the cost of the apartments is estimated as JD 14,000 each.

Announcement for tenders. Mr Quntar said, is expected to take place in February 1985. He added that foreign companies may also take part provided they comply with the conditions of the tenders, but preference will be given to Jordanian companies.

The project is likely to be completed in 30 months from the date of commencement of the work, probably, in April 1985.

Air transport and Tourism Housing Society, which was established in 1983, has 218 members on its rolls. It was initiated by the Air transport and Tourism Union, established in 1970.

Com.Banks show healthy business

AMMAN (Star) — According to a report published in Ad-Dustour the Commercial Banks in Jordan marked an increase of JD 278,488,000 in their assets at the end of August this year. The figure at the close end of August reached JD 2,028,085,000 compared to JD 1,749,597,000 during the same period last year.

A Statistical Bulletin issued by the Central Bank has given the following break-up of the Commercial Banks' assets. The assets in Jordanian currency and coins came to JD 11,662,000 by the end of last August compared to JD 12,469,000 last year. The Commercial Banks' deposits with the Central Bank until the end of last August amounted to JD 116,807,000 compared to JD 121,648,000 last year. Commercial Banks' foreign currency reserves by the end of last August, reached to JD 1,407,000 compared to JD 1,566,000 last year.

Deposits with foreign banks

Commercial Banks deposits with foreign banks reached JD 284,118,000 by the end of last August, compared to JD 248,926,000 last year while its foreign investments by the end of last August has gone down to JD 15,178,000 from JD 17,161,000.

Deposits with local banks

While commercial banks' deposits with local banks reached JD 90,136,000 by the end of last August, compared to JD 74,818,000 last year, its assets from discount bills and promissory notes rose to JD 211,705,000 by the end of last August compared to JD 186,376,000 last year.

Assets from advances and loans of Commercial Banks increased to JD 905,306,000 by the end of last August from JD 821,322,000 last year. The local investments also rose to JD 31,788,000 by the end of last August, compared to JD 25,218,000 last year.

Permits and Bonds

The deposits from permits and government bonds with the Commercial Banks came to JD 198,829,000 by the end of last August compared to JD 119,960,000 last year, while collections of cheques and withdrawals, reached JD 12,091,000 by the end of last August compared to JD 10,118,000 last year.

Commercial Banks' assets from estate and furniture accounted for JD 54,627,000 by the end of last August compared to JD 44,349,000 last year and other assets of the banks came to JD 94,322,000 by the end of last August compared to JD 63,676,000 last year.

Dollar down, gold higher

LONDON (AP) — The US dollar fell against all key currencies in early European trading late Tuesday pressured by market nervousness because of the US Presidential elections and predictions that American interest rates will continue to fall. Gold prices moved higher.

The dollar dipped to a 10-week low in Tokyo, where trading ends before Europe's business day begins. It was quoted at a closing 241.85 yen, compared with Monday's 243.45 Yen. Later, in London, it rose to 242.33 yen.

In thin, nervous European trading, dealers said Tuesday's fall in the US Federal funds rate from 9.3-9 per cent to 9 per cent contributed to the dollar's early weakness.

Other dollar rates at mid-morning, compared with late Tuesday:

- 2.9160 West German Marks, down from 2.9500
- 2.4010 Swiss Francs, down from 2.4235
- 8.9575 French Francs, down from 9.0550
- 3.2875 Dutch Guilders, down from 3.3255
- 1,822.50 Italian Lire, down from 1,836.25
- 1.3090 Canadian dollars, up from 1.26175

In London, the British pound was quoted at 1.2765 dollars, compared with 1.26175 Tuesday.

Gold opened in London at a bid price of 345.90 dollars a troy ounce, compared with late Tuesday's 345.75. At mid-morning Wednesday, the city's five major bullion dealers fixed a recommended price of 345.80 dollars.

In Zurich, the bid price was 346.20 dollars, up from 346.00 late Tuesday.

Earlier, in Hong Kong, gold rose 11 cents to close at a bid 347.50.

In New York Tuesday, gold fell 2.40 dollars to close at 345.20.

Silver was quoted in London Wednesday at a bid price of 7.63 dollars a troy ounce, up from Tuesday's 7.575.

Gold

LONDON (AP) — Here are the late gold prices (in US dollars per troy ounce) on Wednesday 7

Days	Friday	Monday	Tuesday
Market			
London	343.10	342.45	346.10
Zurich	343.250	342.70	346.20
Hong Kong	338.03	342.87	342.87

Gold in Jordan

AMMAN (Star) — Prices on Wednesday 7 November 1984 were as follows:

18 ct... JD 3,400 per gramme
21 ct... JD 3,900 per gramme
24 ct... JD 4,700 per gramme
One kilogramme (9999) JD 4,500
Ounce... JD 146,000
Gold Sterling... JD 33,000
(Central Bank)
Rashadi Pound... JD 27,000 (seven gramme)
Source: Youssif Abu Sara, Jewellers, Amman.

What Money Earns in Foreign Currencies

Currency/Period	US\$	DM	SF	FF	DMs	Yen	Sterling Pound
1 M	9 11/16	5 1/2	4 1/2	10 9/16	5 3/4	6 1/8	10 3/8
3 M	9 13/16	5 3/4	5 1/8	10 3/4	5 7/16	6 1/4	10 1/4
6 M	9 7/8	5 3/4	5 1/8	10 3/4	5 15/16	6 1/4	10 3/16
9 M	10	5 3/4	5 1/8	10 15/16	6	6 1/4	10 1/16
12 M	10 8/16	5 13/16	4 15/16	11 3/8	6 1/16	6 1/4	10 1/16
1 Yr	10 9/16	5 13/16	4 15/16	12 3/8	6 3/16	6 5/16	10
2 Yrs	11 1/2	6 1/4	—	—	—	—	—
3 Yrs	11 7/8	6 5/8	—	—	—	—	—
4 Yrs	12	7	—	—	—	—	—
5 Yrs	12 1/8	7 1/16	—	—	—	—	—

The above rates are those offered on the London interbank market on 6 November to prime customers. Commercial banks and financial companies offer the same rates less a margin of ranging between 1/32 of 1% up to 1/2 of 1%. But it may happen that for large deposits, some banks may take no margin or even offer higher rates than in London. Depending on each institution's needs, margins can change significantly.

This Jerusalem Star — Ad-Dustour survey was carried out with the assistance of Finance and Credit Corporation (Amman) and CAPITAL INTERNATIONAL (CYPRUS).

Spanish delegation leaves Amman

AMMAN — The Spanish economic delegation concluded its visit to Amman and returned to Spain last Tuesday. The delegation which came to Amman upon an invitation from the Masad Establishment, had discussions with businessmen and officials here. Following are excerpts from an interview, with the members of the delegation, by The Star's Hamdan Al Haj:

Question: What are the places you visited?

Answer: We paid a visit to Prince Assem bin Nayef who is a friend and had visited central Spain, Valladolid. Also we visited the Spanish embassy where we were given a most hospitable reception.

We visited Amman Chamber of Commerce and met with Ahmad Tijani, the chamber's director, and exchanged views and discussed about the possibilities of co-operation. We extended an invitation to Mr Tijani to visit Spain.

We paid visits to some of the Jordanian banks for information we needed and discussed the possibility of direct co-operation between Spanish and Jordanian banks.

We called on the former Jordanian Ambassador to Spain. He is our closest friend and a friend of Spain. Also we contacted the businessmen in Amman who have expressed their interest in Spanish products.

Reasons for our visit:

We received an invitation from Masad Establishment to visit Amman for discussions on matters pertaining



Mr Vicente Calle Olmo, Deputy President of the Al-Walid district chamber of commerce

to commercial co-operation. Nevertheless, we cannot evaluate the outcome at this moment, we can say that the visit was very successful and achieved its objectives.

Impressions:

We have been impressed by the hospitality of Jordanians and with the Jordanian-Spanish co-operation.

Commercial relations:

Commercial relations are good and there is room for bolstering and reinforcing those relations. We will consider the possibility of importing Jordanian goods that are popular in the Spanish market.

Jordanian market:

We were greatly surprised by the Jordanian market. We were told that this is a small market but we found out that the purchasing power is great. There are capable and shrewd businessmen in Jordan.

This is a suitable market for Spanish goods which can compete with other goods. We are capable of supplying the Jordanian market with all that needs without any complications.

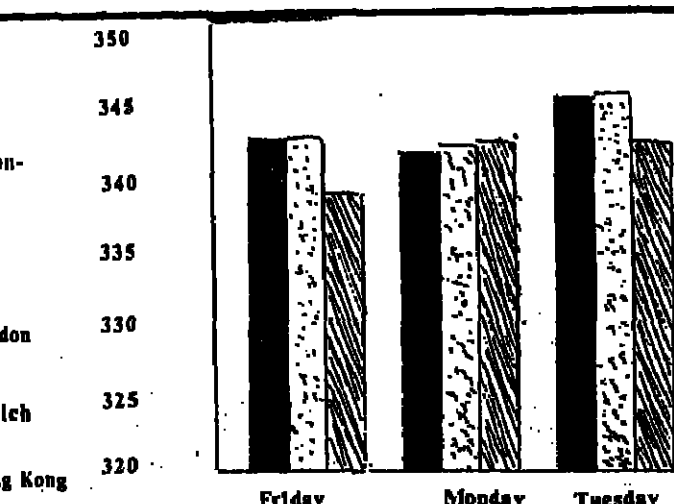
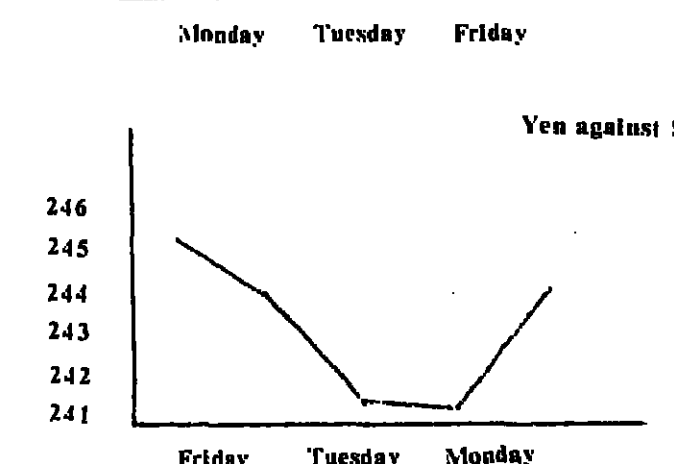
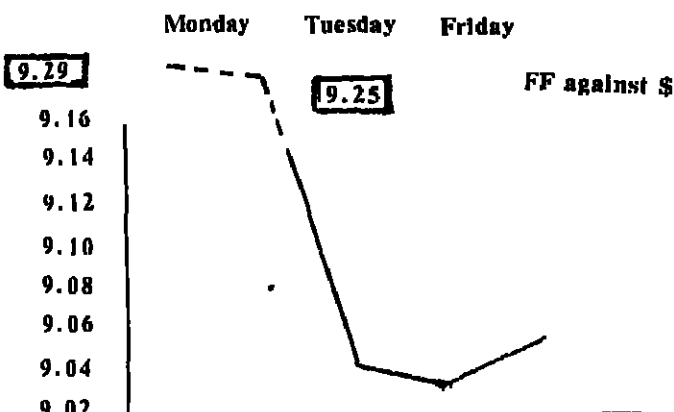
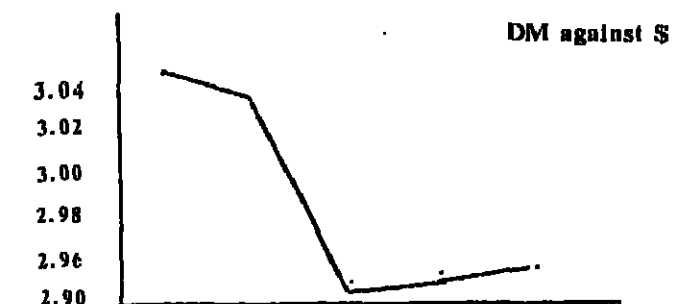
Among the members of the delegation was Mr Ameen Qassas, the representative of the International Fair for Central Spain, who is also the Director of an Industrial Firm in Spain. Mr Qassas has been striving for the past six years to promote commercial relations between Spain and Jordan.



Mr Amin Qassas, Representative of the International Fair for Central Spain

Foreign Currency

Days	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Monday	Tuesday
Currency day					
DM	3.0310	3.0190	2.9454	2.9495	2.9500
FF	9.2945	9.2545	9.0437	9.0375	9.0550
Yen	245.30	244.25	241.625	241.850	243.10



Contracts & Contacts

• THE JORDAN Petroleum Refinery Ltd announces the following tenders:
1- 112/84 supply of a machine to check underground pipe leaks. Specifications on payment of JD 5.
2- 83/84 supply of steam generator for asphalt unit — JD 5.
3- 113/84 Electrical cables — JD 2.
114/84 Detergents and Ink for drum stamping — JD 1.
Closing date: 10 December.

• THE JORDANIAN Geographical centre announces the sale of the following second hand vehicles in Zarqa. Inspection may be made on November 4, 5 & 6, 1984.

Toyota 1978 (8 each)/Toyota 1976 (1 each)/Dodge sedan 1977 (2 ea.)
Dodge pick-up 1978 (1 each).
Closing date: 15 November, 1984.

• THE JRAE is willing to insure its training and transport planes comprehensively against third party risks for one year starting from 1 January—31 December, 1985. Closing date: 25 November, 1984.

• AQABA RAILWAY Corporation announces tenders 16/84 for insuring vehicles, and 17/84 for the expansion of mechanical workshops in Ma'an. Tender documents are available upon payment of JD 25 and JD 30 respectively. Closing date: 1 December, 1984.

• THE DIRECTORATE of Public Security announces tender for purchase of the following vehicles:
A - Vans for the transportation of individuals.
B - Pickup trucks (1) tonne 4 < 4 type 350.
C - Wreck trucks (6 tonnes).
Closing date: 18 November, 1984.

• THE CO-OPERATIVE Organization announces tender for purchasing 1000 tonnes of Ammonium sulphate 21 per cent Azot. Tender documents can be had on payment of JD 20. Closing date: 13 November 1984.

• JORDAN VALLEY Authority requires contractors to move an Inoperative pump and to install a new one in Wadi Rajah. Closing date: 13 November, 1984.

• WAQFAS MUNICIPALITY is willing to purchase 100 mercury lighting units. Closing date: 11 November 1984.

• THE JORDAN Valley Authority intends to purchase the following items: Galvanised pipes (3000), Joints (15), elbows 10, Threading machine (2), 18 3" (20), Adapters 2-2 1/2" (20), Adapters 1-2 1/2" (20). Closing date: 15 November, 1984.

Sweet peanuts for Adnan Khashoggi in Sudan

By Robert Poullot
Star Economy Analyst

ONCE KNOWN as the breadbasket of the Arab World (potentially that is) where all Arab/OPEC aid funds were rushing to invest in the mid and late 70s, Sudan has become today the hostage of its own economic and financial hardship.

A soaring budgetary deficit (a 52 per cent jump in 1983-84), a high running inflation (30-35 per cent) as well as raging money supply (35-40 per cent), a sharp drop in major crop output (sorghum, peanuts and sesame — though sugar is up), an external debt bubbling at about US \$9 billion (over seven times exports), deep political instability in the oil-rich southern area have all contributed to make the country extremely vulnerable to quick and short term solutions.

This is the context in which the Saudi entrepreneur, Adnan Khashoggi and his multinational Triad group closed a fantastic deal with President Numeiri. Whether the deal is in Sudan's long term interest is another issue but unless it is repeated soon, it will certainly shape the future of that country.

The basic core of the mammoth agreement is the establishment of a National Oil Company (the second one in fact), a step which should have been taken years back (at least with similar powers) even before the first pockets of gas were discovered in the country in the sixties. The first discovery of recoverable oil, with estimated reserves of 400 million barrels, was made in 1980 by Chevron in the southern part of the country.

What took everyone by surprise though was that half of the equity in the National Oil Company was sold to a Triad group affiliate, SIGMA. The government could easily have chosen to reserve — say — 25 or 30 per cent to outside shareholders and issue the balance of 50 per cent in favour of local investors, but it did not.

In exchange for its privileged equity participation, SIGMA is to provide a package of hybrid facilities for up to 10 years to a financial affiliate of the oil company. Such facilities, to be used for letters of credit and export guarantees worth US \$400 million, will however be all covered by the government. The question is then: Why use a third party to get financing to build export refineries, port installations and pipelines if the ultimate liabilities rest with the state? And how much is Mr Khashoggi paying for his equity participation?

The National Oil Company can acquire all the rights, titles, concessions, leases and royalties for oil and mineral rights. This is a sovereign right of any gov-

ernment and no one can dispute that. However, what happens when a single investor is a 50-50 partner in the venture with the state and wishes to buy out — at fair value — a competitor's concession? Isn't there the prospect of a conflict of interest? Surely enough, a private individual can not share the sovereign rights of a state. So why would such a privilege be given to Mr Khashoggi?

The oil company will benefit from wide ranging tax and regulation exemptions and SIGMA will be allowed to repatriate abroad all its share of earnings. And why not? But is the same offered to other investors in Sudan?

Political leverage
By conferring a prominent position to a single investor (which, by the way, has never proven his capability in assuming such a large mineral development responsibility), President Numeiri hopes to force the hand of oil companies now operating in Sudan to step up their activities. Otherwise, says the agreement, they could eventually be discarded from the ball game altogether.

It might just do that, prompting the Chevroons, Shells, Totals and others to move faster. At the same time however, it could deter more than one in moving into Sudan. In short, the rules of the game won't be the same for all players anymore.

Sudan could perhaps have accomplished more by spreading its eggs in more baskets through a greater number of investors.

A different approach could have been to reserve a majority (50 per cent plus) for Sudanese investors with — say — the state holding a blocking control of 25 per cent while foreign investors and companies would have acquired 49 per cent plus. Take the case of the International Energy Development Corporation (IEDC) based in Geneva. Among IEDC's shareholders are the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation, the Arab Petroleum Investment Corporation (APICORP), Volvo of Sweden, AZL resources of the US, Sulpetro of Canada and Societe Pour L'Energie of Switzerland. The consortium, which is already active in the south-eastern part of Sudan with total exploration (France) and the Public Petroleum Corporation, another Sudanese national oil company, could have been interested to join in. For example, IEDC now is involved in the Congo, Egypt, Italy, Oman, Tanzania, Turkey and Australia. It acts as principal energy adviser to the government of Pakistan, assists Congo to develop a strategy for the utilization of natural gas and major LNG projects and did the same in Angola.

In even private Jordanian investment groups, not to speak of the network of Islamic banks

around the Middle East looking desperately for good investment opportunities.

With different types of investors in the picture, Sudan might have been justified to exempt the new oil company from the Shari'a law, particularly as far as usury is concerned. But it looks rather odd to do the same only for one investor who is definitely Muslim. How will the population, subjected to the Shari'a since September 1983, react?

Leverage is one thing but it is possible that President Numeiri might have achieved more with a wider base of interests.

A case of a kind

What just happened to Sudan is a lesson for the Arab World. It means that whatever resources a country might have, it takes a lot more than money and wishful thinking to achieve real development. Billions of dollars were poured into Sudan over the 70s but mismanagement, poor infrastructure, over ambitious projects and a clear absence of development strategy caused tremendous waste and financial losses. Just ask the Arab/OPEC aid funds what they achieved in Sudan over that period and they will say why they have become so reluctant nowadays to inject more funds.

Sure, things are changing on the Sudanese economic front. The pound has been drastically devalued and luxury imports have been curtailed. But the country still needs much more than that to take off.

Just look at what happened since 1979 with a three-year extended fund facility granted by the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The deal collapsed after two years because Sudan was unable to meet conditions set by the IMF. In 1982, the IMF provided a standby facility of US \$192 million to help the country implement deep economic reforms. Last year, Sudan received US \$149 million and in December, a new agreement for US \$93 million was signed but the amount had still not been drawn down in August.

In a special donor's conference in January 1983, Sudan obtained pledges for roughly US \$740 million (of which US \$300 million just in project assistance) from Western and Arab nations. During last year, Saudi Arabia stepped up its contribution by supplying Sudan with crude oil. At the Paris club meeting in 1983, official creditors rescheduled US \$500 million of Sudan's debt last year, obliging Sudan to pay only US \$20 million. Private creditors in London did likewise by slashing what was due to them from US \$76 to 30 million.



From the outside all is discretion



A frame for nature

The Khoury residence, materials, design and environment blend to a satisfying whole

Barriers disappear in a pioneer house

Domestic architecture in Amman has undergone a revolution in the past decade or so as families have looked for homes which reflect their modern lifestyles. This week Star writer Josephine Zananiri begins an occasional series on some of Amman's trend setting modern homes and the architects who designed them. She begins with Rasem Badran's 1972 design for the Suhail Khoury family.

THE SUHAIL Khoury residence is considered the first example of modern architecture in Jordan. Prior to the construction of the Fourth Circle house, buildings in Amman were simple linear dwellings, generally devoid of aesthetic value. When Dr Khoury and his wife Yvonne, thought of building in 1972 they wanted something truly different and Rasem Badran, newly returned from university in Germany, realized those dreams. For the Khoury's the experiment became the ideal home, for Amman, a new beginning in architecture.

Khoury house no windows are visible from the roadside and by the clever use of angle even later high-rise neighbours cannot see into the house.

The kitchen, situated at the centre back of the living area, although built and designed over ten years ago, is probably more modern than many "big kitchens" installed in today's Amman houses. Essentials, refrigerator, oven and sink are all located within a few steps of each other. A pleasant breakfast area located next to the kitchen looks upon a tiny yet mysterious walled garden.

Twelve years after 'We would change little' say the Khourys

Using the natural slope of the land, the second level descends a few feet to the master bedroom. The same stairwell, turning at a right angle and plunging deeper leads to the children's wing. Privacy then is maintained between the three blocks by using the natural topography. The children's wing, although the lowest part of the dwelling, is reunited with the living quarter by yet another patio.

Parallel beams

To the untitled the structural elements of the house appear quite complex, but in reality consist of four parallel beams. The appearance of complexity arises from Badran's artistic use of spacing. None of the rooms belong to the traditional square adjoining square theme but rather areas are juxtaposed at angle throughout.

One of the most dramatic and luxurious features of the house is the use of stone. In order to take the sterile concrete aspect out of the stone work Rasem Badran found an ancient stone mason who laid the stones in the traditional peasant manner, that is using non-uniform sizes and fitting them together. The use of stone on the internal walls adds a delightful texture, which admirably complements Badran's artistic design. However as Dr. Khoury and Rasem Badran both pointed out construction costs are increased enormously.

Privacy

The furnishings of the house reflect the simple linear aptures. Initially they frame nature's outdoor pictures. Next they must answer certain technical problems relating to adequate lighting and ventilation. Lastly, in the Arab world, windows should provide privacy. In the

Rasem Badran comments, "the only way to love nature is to see it everywhere around". Clearly the Khoury's understood his intentions as the garden outside is lush with scented creepers, flowing vines, and willowing trees. Even the small earth-bound plants are verily eye catching, and lively pots of green hang mellowly from stone walls.

One view at the side of the house is worth a small digression — a giant jacaranda tree, delight of the neighbourhood children in flowering season, framing a freestanding stone element, and a simple curving iron staircase leading to some unknown destination.

Both Dr. and Mrs. Khoury agree that they would change little in their home if constructing again; probably only increasing the size of the bedrooms. Both feel that their house is truly a home to live in and not a monument for the outside world to inspect.

The impact of the house in the seventies was enormous. During construction, people used to visit the site daily, according to Dr. Khoury, "to see this strange new place being built". Ten years have not dimmed the appeal of the residence and hopefully the people of Amman have come to understand more of architecture.

As Rasem Badran's first constructed design in Jordan the Khoury residence, will obviously be first page in any future text books on modern architecture here. The house embodies all the elements of later Badran constructions: sensitivity to site and environment; utilization of the dwelling to suit local customs; and the adaption of the building to enhance and utilize climatic variances.

School in a sambodrome

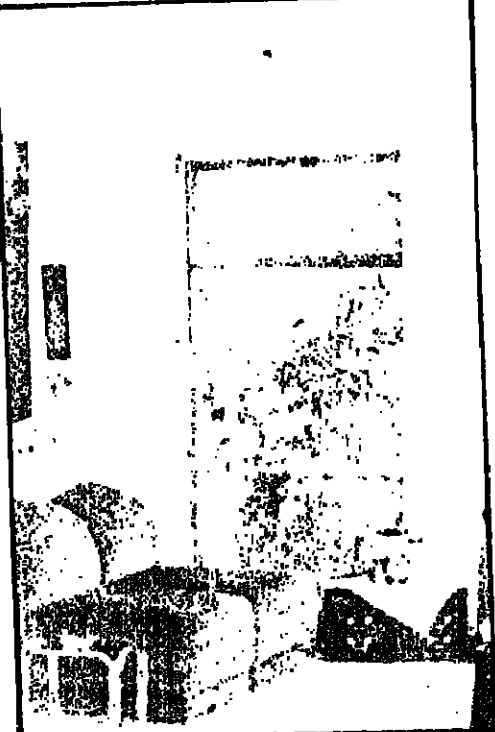
WHEN IT comes to "worthy" projects, like building schools, government money often is just not available; for matters of overwhelming popular demand, however, it usually is. That's how Rio de Janeiro secured classrooms for 16,000 slum children.

Against much opposition, Rio State Governor Leonel Brizola commissioned one of the world's leading architects, Brazilian Oscar Niemeyer, to design a permanent home for Rio's famed annual carnival. And he ordered that it should double as an educational complex.

Explained construction official Carlos Gravina, "The Governor knew there would never be enough money to pay for classrooms, but it's always available for carnival."

Niemeyer's all-concrete design, quickly dubbed the "sambodrome," went up in a record four months at a cost of 25 billion cruzeiros (\$13 million).

And 2,100 children from the hillside favelas (slum cities) overlooking the com-



Indoors and garden blend together

Rasem Badran believes that the house would not have been possible without the Khoury's sensitivity. It could be added that without the Khoury residence the development of modern architecture in Jordan could well have languished a few more years.

plex already are attending nursery, kindergarten and first grade in permanent classrooms within the complex.

Said Niemeyer, who also designed the nation's capital city Brasilia, "In a country like ours, full of disbelief and despair, the construction of the sambodrome in just four months was surprising."

"The work was carried out using the most modern construction techniques, showing everybody the progress made by Brazilian engineering."

Though the passion for carnival is probably deeper here than in any nation (the pre-Lenten fiesta lasts for a week), development experts believe Brizola's use of available funds to secure a secondary objective of social worth is a technique that could be adopted by many nations.

Not only does the sambodrome provide 212 rooms for educational use, its permanent bleachers will save the \$8.4 million it costs each year to erect and then destroy stands for watchers of the carnival.

(Compass feature)

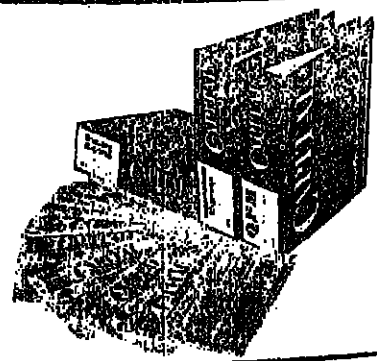
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Help for a forgotten desert people

Ottomar and Inge Ameis have made three trips into the Mauritanian desert to help secure the water supplies of nomads in the drought. But established aid organizations have been unwilling to provide help or continue their work.

A GERMAN engineer and his wife have devoted most of their free time and spare cash over the last 10 years in an individual initiative to help the drought-stricken nomads of Mauritania. But denied backing by official aid organizations, they fear that the project will fall by the wayside because there is no-one to continue their work.

"We think that what we have done has been a success," said Ottomar Ameis in a telephone interview from his Hamburg home. "But we can't change the world on our own."

Health permitting, Ameis and his wife Inge will set off into the Mauritanian desert in early 1986 for the final leg of their personal crusade to help the region's impoverished nomads survive the drought, which has been threatening their way of life for more than 15 years.

The qualification is important, for Ameis, an administrative supervisor in the Hamburg city building authority, will be nearly 60 when he makes the three-month trip.

It will be the couple's fourth trip to Mauritania, more than ten years after reading a magazine article which told how the animals upon which the nomads depend were perishing because

of the lack of well-equipped watering places.

Ameis and his wife decided to use his leave from work to travel to Mauritania and improve some of the rough wells used by the nomads and their animals. Crude holes in the ground, these are frequently clogged with sand and polluted with animal droppings. Much water is spilled and wasted.

In 1976 they succeeded in improving two wells with a construction of concrete and galvanized iron. Using an improved design, the couple returned with friends and two old trucks in 1979 and 1982 and installed a further 26 units in the Mauritanian desert.

The construction, capable of being erected in one day, consists of a steel well-ring to keep the well clear of sand and faeces, a simple crane enabling water to be drawn from a depth of up to 60 metres (200 ft.), a pump and a basin enabling humans and animals to drink easily and avoid wastage.

The Ameis financed their first trip -- which cost 25,000 DM (\$8,750) -- themselves, and have received help since from the church community in their Hamburg suburb of Wöhlhoff-Ohlstedt. However, their private initiative has met with indifference from established aid and development organizations.

"We have been told repeatedly by charitable and other organizations that as private individuals, they cannot help us," said Ameis.

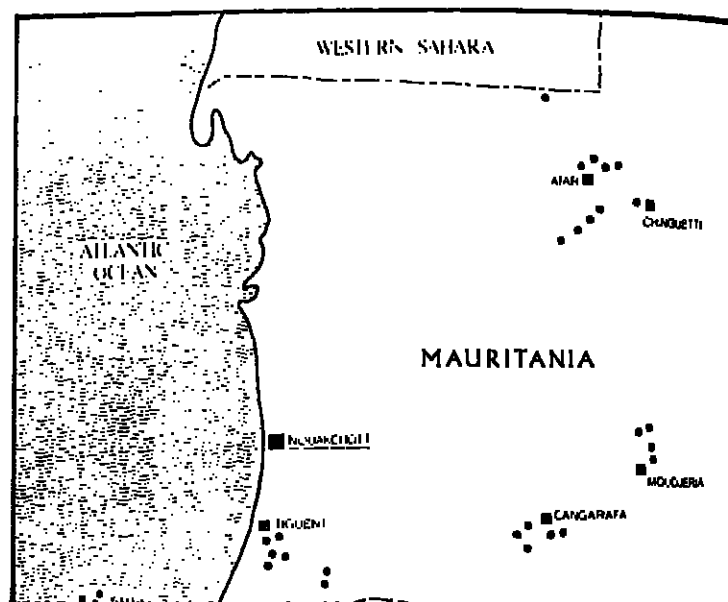
"Nor has anyone been prepared to follow up the work we have done. I regret that groups with greater resources have not followed our lead. There are hundreds or even thousands of wells in Mauritania alone, and many cannot be reached with trucks."

"After our next trip, we will not be able to do more for reasons of money and health, and it seems unlikely that there will be anyone to continue the project."

Mauritania is one of the world's poorest countries, with an annual per capita income of \$470, according to the World Bank. This ranks it 90th out of 126 countries. Ameis says the condition of its 1.6 million inhabitants has if anything deteriorated since the couple's first trip eight years ago.

"Few aid organizations seem to be involved with the desert nomads -- they are more involved in the south of the country. They are trying to improve the situation by constructing stores for food and means of collecting water."

"But there's also a lot of nonsense. In the suburbs of the capital, Nouakchott, you can see modern new Fiat tractors standing idle by the roadside because no-one knows how to use them. And shipments of grain arrive in the harbour, only to be left in warehouses because there are no trucks to transport it to people in need."



Mauritania, subject to drought for 15 years

Ameis believes the couple's initiative is important because it aims to help the nomads survive in their traditional environment rather than join the migration into the cities.

"Those who leave the land find themselves with nothing to do but wait for handouts," he said. "We want to prevent their way of life being destroyed."

Ameis believes that his system of improving wells could be used all over the Sahel and Sahara, and possibly in the world's other desert regions.

He appealed to the international aid organizations not to neglect the desert people. "My impression is that they pay less attention to the nomads in Mauritania than in Mali, Niger and

Upper Volta. At any rate, we didn't see much of them."

The 1986 trip is to make modifications to the well structures and conduct any necessary repairs. "We are altering the cranes so that they will work with wooden rather than metal rollers," said Ameis. "These can be replaced by the nomads themselves, and will mean that the system can survive when we are gone."

"But without regular checks on the state of the wells, their functioning cannot be guaranteed indefinitely. For instance, the basins are strong, but if a 600 kg (1,300 lb) camel fell on one it would be more than the construction could stand."

(Compass News features)

Modern skill enlivens an ancient craft

By Ersilia Moreno
Special to The Star

ARMENIAN ARTIST Vic Lepejian's exhibition of hand painted olive wood boxes at the British Council this week is a collector's delight. The art of painting boxes is an ancient one but Lepejian's work has a distinctive and individual style. Visitors to the Middle East will find his Islamic and arabesque designed boxes in only one place, his studio in Jerusalem.

Lepejian says he has been inspired by his travels in Egypt, Turkey and Spain. Wherever he goes he takes photographs of the mosaic interiors of mosques. Later he creates or duplicates designs existing on ceramic tiles, wall hangings and metal plates in the mosque using his imaginative instinct and the different types of Islamic calligraphy.

He has painted details of the Qur'an in Arabic script reading "Allah," "Ali" and "In the name of God, the merciful and compassionate," as well as panel designs from the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem, the mosque of the Sultan El-Ahury in Cairo, and mosques in Turkey.

He has also incorporated animals into his designs, an idea which came from Persian influence. In the past animal designs were rarely used by Arabs. They used floral patterns, he says.

Lepejian's craft dates back to the 7th century in Cairo when all-purpose boxes were painted and carved with Islamic motifs. The long rectangular casket-like boxes in his exhibition are the shape that craftsmen back then carved and painted. Lepejian is now one of the few craftsmen in the world who has kept the art alive.

Each of his olive wood boxes is ordered specially from Bethlehem. After sanding and cleaning each one, he sprays a colour-

less substance on it to eliminate any possibility of the design spreading. Then he copies an actual sized design he has already worked out on paper onto the box with pencil.

Next he goes over it with china ink and a quill-like pen called "al risheh" similar to the ones used by 7th century artists. This process is extremely time consuming because it requires constant dipping.

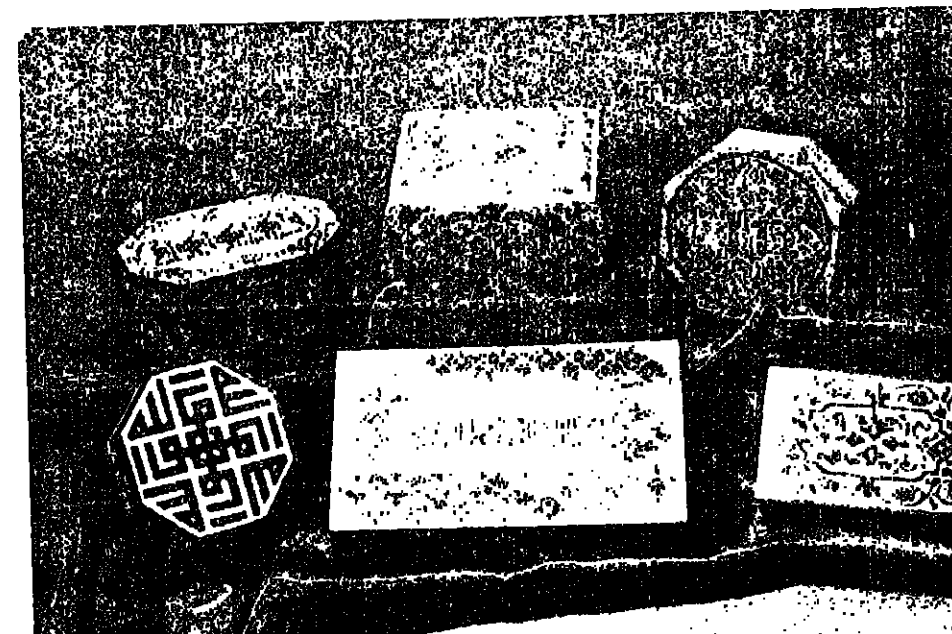
He then paints in the outlined design with acrylics and gold or silver dust. Gold, silver and shades of blue are the predominant colours he uses as, he says they reflect the original colours used in Islamic art. After a final lacquer coat the box is ready.

Lepejian says it takes anywhere from three and a half hours to complete a small box up to 48 hours for a large one.

However, Vic Lepejian does not just paint olive wood boxes. He is what could be called "an artist of all trades." As early as the age of four he started to show an interest in art. "I still have some of the sketches I did back then," he says. Yet it wasn't until after he completed his secondary education that he had the opportunity to actually pursue his interests.

In 1969 he received a scholarship to join the very competitive art programme at the Academy of Fine Arts and Theatre at the University of Yerevan in Armenia. After completing his masters degree he returned to Jerusalem to try his luck at making a living with the artistic skills he learned.

He worked copper chasing, sculpture, ceramics, stained glass, wood carvings and watercolours and then sold his work to various shops. He has also held exhibitions every year since his return.



A tradition that dates back to the 7th century

He held an exhibition of his copper chasing work two years ago in Amman. This caught the attention of many people including representatives of the European Economic Commission who have now chosen him to give a solo exhibition in Washington in 1987.

Lepejian no longer has other people selling his work. His studio, in the old part of Jerusalem, is doing a booming business. His designs of Jerusalem's gates, Churches, Mosques as well as his flowers and geometrical abstracts are painted onto vases, thumbies and boxes of all shapes.

Lepejian says that 99 per cent of the people who enter the studio purchase something. "Americans are my best cus-

tomers. They're crazy about my work." (A sample of his Jerusalem-themed boxes are also at the exhibition).

The Islamic motif boxes on display are what Lepejian terms as "exclusive." He only puts a few out for sale to add to the character of the studio. "I put a high price on them. I don't care if I sell them or not. People tend to think that it is difficult for me to earn a living as an artist. It's just the opposite," Lepejian says his business in Jerusalem is very lucrative and that is why he termed the exhibition as "exclusive."

"An artist must not only satisfy himself, he must also please the public, but sometimes he must create entirely for his own satisfaction," he says.

STAR READERSHIP SURVEY

Dear Reader: With this survey, The Star hopes to get an idea of who our readers are, what they like or don't like and how we can better serve them. We hope you will take a few minutes of your time to complete the questionnaire below, answering as many questions as you can, and then mail it to us at Post Office Box 591, Amman.

All answers will be kept in strictest confidence and will be used for statistical purposes only. Thank you for your co-operation, and good reading!

- For how long have you been reading The Star?
 - Osema El-Sherif (Memorandum)
 - Ya'coub Jaber (View point)
 - Nabil El-Sherif (Every week)
 - Kamel Abu Jaber (Greetings to Jerusalem)
 - Henry Matar (Opinion)
 - Hayford Attuiah (Afro Scene)
 - Joyce Abu Jassar (All Things Considered)
 - Robert Pouliot (Star Economy Analyst)
 - Ahmed Al Anani (Personal Perspective)
 - Dana Adamis Schmidt (A View From America)
- How often do you read the paper?
 - Very good
 - Adequate
 - Poor
 - Very bad
- Do you find The Star's coverage of local news?
 - Very good
 - Adequate
 - Poor
 - Very bad
- How many people read your copy of The Star?
 - Family paper
 - Political/business paper
 - Very specialized paper
 - Comprehensive paper
- Do you consider The Star a:
 - Family paper
 - Political/business paper
 - Very specialized paper
 - Comprehensive paper
- Do you find The Star's layout and appearance attractive?
 - Yes
 - No
 - If not, why?
- Who are your favourite regular columnists?
 - Osema El-Sherif (Memorandum)
 - Ya'coub Jaber (View point)
 - Nabil El-Sherif (Every week)
 - Kamel Abu Jaber (Greetings to Jerusalem)
 - Henry Matar (Opinion)
 - Hayford Attuiah (Afro Scene)
 - Joyce Abu Jassar (All Things Considered)
 - Robert Pouliot (Star Economy Analyst)
 - Ahmed Al Anani (Personal Perspective)
 - Dana Adamis Schmidt (A View From America)
- Of the regular pages which do you read most often:
 - Jordan Week
 - Middle East
 - Opinion
 - Analysis
 - Arts
 - Society
 - Living
 - People
 - Star Kids
 - Sport
 - Comics
- Do you think there should be more:
 - Local News
 - Economy and Business reports
 - Middle East news coverage
- Please indicate your opinions concerning:
 - The Finance, Business and Economy pullout:
 - Very good — Adequate — Poor — Very bad
 - The Star's special sections:
 - Eg. Swimming in Jordan, Current Issues — the UNESCO crisis, Housing Complex Directory, Jerusalem etc.
 - Very good — Adequate — Poor — Very bad
 - The WorldPaper (Monthly International Supplement):
 - Very good — Adequate — Poor — Very bad
 - The Weekly Calendar:
 - Very Good — Adequate — Poor — Very bad
- Human interest stories
 - Cultural items and reports
 - Sports coverage
 - Entertainment items
 - Others (please specify):
- Personal Data:
 - Age:
 - Sex:
 - Nationality:
 - Occupation:
 - Place of residence (eg. Amman, Irbid or abroad):
 - Is English your native language?
 - Yes
 - No
 - If no, do you find the language used in The Star:
 - Easy to understand?
 - Challenging?
 - Too difficult?
 - How do you get The Star?
 - By mail
 - From a bookshop
 - At a supermarket
 - From street newspaper vendors
 - Others (please specify):
- Please state any additional remarks and observations you may have on the paper and how you think the paper can be improved.

The Jerusalem Star
P.O. Box 591
Amman, Jordan

Alia Gallery re-opens its doors

By Vanessa Batrouni
Special to The Star

THOSE WHO mourned the passing of the Alia Gallery in Shmeisani will be pleased to know that it reopens at the end of this month at its new premises at the First Circle.

The First Circle building was chosen in preference to other Alia buildings that have been vacated recently in the transfer of Alia offices to the new Housing Bank Centre, for its central position, being in the heart of Jebel Amman close to cultural centres and embassies. The new site too offers improvements in facilities to its exhibiting artists if not any changes in its artistic policies.

As a space it is larger, lighter and proportionally more ideal. Proper movable lighting has been installed along with panels for display. Although in an office block, it will be completely separate with

a separate entrance. And parking facilities are available.

Charges at the new gallery will remain the same, thirty per cent of sales for foreign artists to cover transport costs and twenty per cent of sales for Jordanian artists.

Alia is proving again to be more than just an airline — it also functions as a major diplomatic body in presenting and promoting Jordan to the outside world, and carries this responsibility further by supporting and initiating cultural and artistic projects. Farouk Lambas, Director of Design and Photography at Alia and Director of the Alia Art Gallery believes that a professional art gallery is an essential in Jordanian society. It is a cultural crossroad where foreign art can be viewed by Jordanians and Jordanian art by foreigners. From the new gallery, exhibitions, along with their artist, will be sent abroad by

Alia to exhibitions outside Jordan arranged through sales managers.

Although paintings were auctioned at the closing of the Shmeisani gallery, Alia still retains a private collection which has been disseminated around their offices and airport buildings. With a good collection of orientalists and foreign artists to which they plan to add new work by Jordanian artists, the gallery will be able to run its private collection in exhibition halls. Not that exhibition halls are really expected, after the gloom and doom of the summer when artists were forced back to hotel foyers and cultural centres, they will no doubt be relieved and pleased to return to their main exhibition ground that, with its coffee bar, serves not only as an exhibition hall but as a meeting place for residents and local artists.

The Gallery will resume business with an exhibition by Farouk Lambas, opening date not yet fixed.

Hommage to Truffaut

The French Centre is presenting a special tribute to film director Francois Truffaut who died recently. Truffaut is acknowledged as one of the masters of modern cinema for such works as the 400 blows, Jules et Jim, Day for Night and Stolen Kisses.

The French Centre tribute, which will be presented on Thursday 8 June at 8.00 pm, will consist of a brief account of Truffaut's work, a showing of the film "Hirez Sur le Pianiste" (Shoot the Pianist) with star Charles Aznavour, a video of an interview with the director made only a few months before his death, and a discussion of his life, his work and his contribution to the art of the cinema.

A high time for pickers and pluckers

AND A high time for their audiences according to their reviews from the United States. "One of the slickest singing and pickin'" bands in bluegrass today is how one magazine describes The Bluegrass Cardinals who will be appearing at the Haya Centre next week.

The five member group has been performing since 1974 and the musicians pay particular attention to the quality of their vocals. Mainstays of the group are Don Parmley on banjo and bartone vocals and his son David on lead vocals and guitar.

Other group members are Larry Stephenson who plays mandolin and acoustic guitar, Mike Hartgrove a skilled bluegrass fiddler and Jack Leonard who joined the group in June

this year. Jack plays bass and sings tenor.

The music they play, bluegrass, is one of the most vibrant and authentic sounds on the American traditional music scene.

It is one style of music developed from the European ballads brought to the southern and western regions of America by early 18th century settlers. Hillbilly music and cowboy songs share these origins.

In its early days the music was mainly a part of social activities such as hoedowns, quilting parties and barn raisings. The development of radio and recordings has given it a much wider audience but even today, genuine bluegrass music draws its strength from its roots in the tradition of rural eastern America.

The bluegrass songs are rhythmically simple and straight-forward. The lyrics deal with everyday events and emotions — loneliness, love, rejection and death.

The music which accompanies the songs is far from simple. Bluegrass musicians depend mainly on the fiddle, mandolin, banjo and guitar and their music is breathtaking in its speed, skill and complexity. Most audience come away from a bluegrass concert wondering how one ordinary mortal can make such music with an apparently simple fiddle, mandolin or banjo.

The Bluegrass Cardinals will appear at the Haya Arts Centre on Thursday 15 November at 7.30 pm and on Saturday 17 November at 4.00 pm and 7.30 pm. Tickets are available from the Haya Arts Centre and the American Centre.

Handwritten signature or note in the right margin.

CALENDAR

Films

The Greek Embassy presents the last film of its Greek Film Week, 'Stella' a 1955 drama starring Melina Mercouri.

Thursday 8 November at 8.00 pm at the Royal Cultural Centre.

The American Centre presents a programme of short films and cartoons including 'Sonny Rollins Live' (36 mins), 'Cotton Candy and Elephant Stuff' (a 30 min documentary about a small travelling circus group) and four award winning cartoons.

Monday 12 November at 7.00 pm

The British Council presents 'Friend or Foe' (70 mins) an adventure film for children.

Monday 12 and Tuesday 13 November at 5.00 pm.

'Far from the Madding Crowd' (170 mins), based on Hardy's novel, directed by John Schlesinger and starring Julie Christie, Terence Stamp, Alan Bates and Peter Finch.

Monday 12 and Tuesday 13 November at 7.30 pm.

The Goethe Institute presents a film for children 'Max and Moritz', starring Christian and Norbert Schultze.

Saturday 10 November at 4.30 pm.

The French Cultural Centre presents a tribute to film director Francois Truffaut.

Thursday 8 November at 8.00 pm. See Arts page 21 for details.

Exhibitions

The British Council presents an exhibition of hand painted olive wood boxes and caskets by Mr. Victor Lepejian of Jerusalem.

Continues until Sunday 11 November.

The Royal Cultural Centre presents an exhibition of paintings by Omar Basoul.

Continues until Monday 12 November.

From Wednesday 14 until Tuesday 20 November the Royal Cultural Centre will have an exhibition of Jordanian and Chinese stamps.

The French Cultural Centre presents 'La Cartographie de "A" a "Z".'

Continues until Thursday 15 November.

The photo exhibition of Islamic ceramics 'Islamic Art in Italy' will be on display at Yarmouk University until Tuesday 13 November.

Cartography lectures

In conjunction with its cartography exhibition, the French Cultural Centre will present two lectures on mapmaking.

Wednesday 7 November at 6.00 pm

Saturday 10 November at 6.00 pm.

Electronic dialogue

The American Centre will be holding an Electronic Dialogue on the results of the American elections. Participants include former Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs Harold Saunders. For further details call the Centre, 44371 ext. 337.

Archaeology

The Friends of Archaeology have a trip to Tel Irbid, site of the ancient Arbella and to Baft Ras a decapolis city with a Roman reservoir, an ancient water system and well-preserved late Ottoman buildings.

Friday 9 November. Meet at the Department of Antiquities Registration Centre at 3rd Circle at 8.30 a.m.

The American Centre of Oriental Research presents a lecture by Dr. Suzanne Richard on the results of her excavations at Khirbet Iskander.

Tuesday 13 November at 6.30 pm.

Tea and certificates for successful English students

British Council representative David Latta presided over a particularly enjoyable afternoon tea party last Thursday. It was an occasion for the presentation of certificates to 27 students who have passed a unique English language examination.

After a three-month course at the British Council, the students sat for the 'Communicative Use of English as a Foreign Language' examination, 18 at the intermediate level and the rest at the basic level.

Organized by the London-based Royal Society of Arts Examination Board, this examination is not only unique in its content, but differs from other examinations in the type of language skills it tests as well as the methods used.

Rather than testing what students know of grammar, vocabulary and composition, the examination tests what they can actually do with the language. The modular system through which it works gives candidates several options as they can sit for basic, intermediate or advanced levels in all or some of the language skills.

This system of testing has a two-fold benefit for students. It gives them a focus for learning as it aims at skill development rather than the ladder climbing of course enrollment. The second benefit is as practical as the first as the certificates themselves state clearly what the students can do with the language in using it as a practical skill. It not only states that they have passed the examination but gives a detailed description of what they can do.

The examination was developed out of research projects at the University of Reading during the late 1970's and the test for users of English as a foreign language was piloted in Britain in the early 1980's. In 1982, the Royal Society of Arts Examinations Board approved the use of the examination for Europe. Following a good response in Europe, the society gave approval for the examination to be held internationally and Jordan and Kuwait are the first two countries to embark on the project.

A second batch of students at the British Council have now prepared themselves to sit for the examination at the end of this month and it should continue to be a twice yearly event.

There's a girl in my Soup! No, it's not a cry from a distressed diner at the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel, merely the name of the play which will be offering at its dinner theatre on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, 12, 13, and 14 of this month.



Right: Some of the successful candidates with their teachers and Mr. David Latta.

The play is the second longest running show in London being outdistanced only by Agatha Christie's legendary Mousetrap. It has clocked up a total of 2,750 performances and attracted over one million and a half visitors.

The Intercontinental does not expect to challenge figures like those but it is hoping for full houses during the three night run and is offering a tempting evening for theatre and food lovers alike, at the price of JD 15.

The evening begins at 6.30 pm with cocktails, these are followed by a full four course dinner and then it is 'on with the show'. Intercontinental manager Antonius Mueller Gerbrand says the idea of the dinner theatre is to enhance the cultural life of Amman without making too heavy a demand on the public's time.

The Al Badiyeh ballroom will be converted into a theatre for the three performances and work is now underway on the building of a stage and the setting up of lighting and scenery.

Playwright Terence Frisby describes his play as an anti-romantic comedy which he has written and rewritten to varying reasons over many years. Despite these inauspicious origins, the play has broken records in London and has been performed in over thirty countries.

Stars of the play are Gerald Harper, Gary Raymond, Anne Roderick and Bill Maynard who will be flown to Amman by courtesy of British Airways.

A total of six hundred seats are available for the three nights and if you are interested in a group booking — the table are suitable for ten. But Mr. Mueller Gerbrand suggests you waste no time in securing your booking as 450 tickets have already been sold.



A GIFT fit for a city — 'The Soldier of the Arab Revolt' is the title given to this fine pair who now stand guard at the gate of parliament building. The soldier and his horse are a gift from the Jordanian Armed Forces to the city of Amman and are due to be unveiled officially by His Majesty King Hussein on the occasion of his birthday on 14 November (Photo by Hassan Ibrahim)

The Yemenia flight arrives in Amman bearing gifts

Yemenia, Yemen Airways added its name on to Amman's list of on-line airlines with its inaugural Sana-Amman direct flight on Wednesday morning 7 November.

Through a joint venture between Alia, The Royal Jordanian Airlines and Yemenia, Jordan has now been connected to Sana on a weekly basis with an incoming flight on Wednesday mornings and departure to Sana the same evening.

Her Royal Highness Princess Alia Al Hussein headed the Jordanian delegation at the Queen Alia International Airport to welcome the passengers of Yemenia's Boeing 727-200. Among the some 70 passengers on board representing the Yemeni government, airline and press was Mohammad Al Haimi, Yemenia Chairman of Board, who presented Princess Alia with a gift of a set of gold necklace, brooch and earrings.

Princess Alia told The Star that opening such routes fills not only aviation needs but also further relations between Arab countries. This flight will also enhance the already good political, cultural and economic relations between Jordan and Yemen, she said.

Mr. Al Haimi talked to reporters at a press conference Wednesday afternoon about the airline. Although quite young when compared with its sister airline companies worldwide, Yemenia at present extends its services to 24 international routes from Bombay in the East to London and Amsterdam in the West.

Established in 1978 with 49 per cent of its paid-up capital owned by Saudi Arabia, Yemenia has 1,600 employees and owns a fleet of seven aircraft including four Boeing 727's, one Boeing 737, and one Dash-2.

The airline's breakthrough came in 1981 when its operating profits soared to YR 21.83 million as against YR 12.27 the previous year.

Yemenia has plans to add United States to its list the management feels that this will have to wait for some time to come.

Yemenia was introduced into the Jordanian market in 1980 by its present general sales agency, Grand Travel and Tourism, which will continue to offer Yemenia's services to the Jordanian market. Mr. Al Haimi added that Yemenia believes that Jordan will prove to be a good market.

Mr. Al Qub'a of the Qub'a advertising agency and his wife Ghada Al are proud parents for the third time this week. Mrs. Qub'a gave birth to a four and a half kilogramme boy, Sa'd at the Shmelsani maternity hospital on Tuesday.

Mother and baby are both in excellent health and are looking forward to joining the rest of the family.



Her Royal Highness Princess Alia received her gift

Photo: Nasser Namrouti

Yemenia also aims to extend its wings over more routes. It already reaches 14 Arab capitals and intends to reach them all. Yemenia flies to seven European countries and plans to add more European flights. Now that the airline has reached Bombay, it will soon reach Karachi, Bangkok and Singapore. Although

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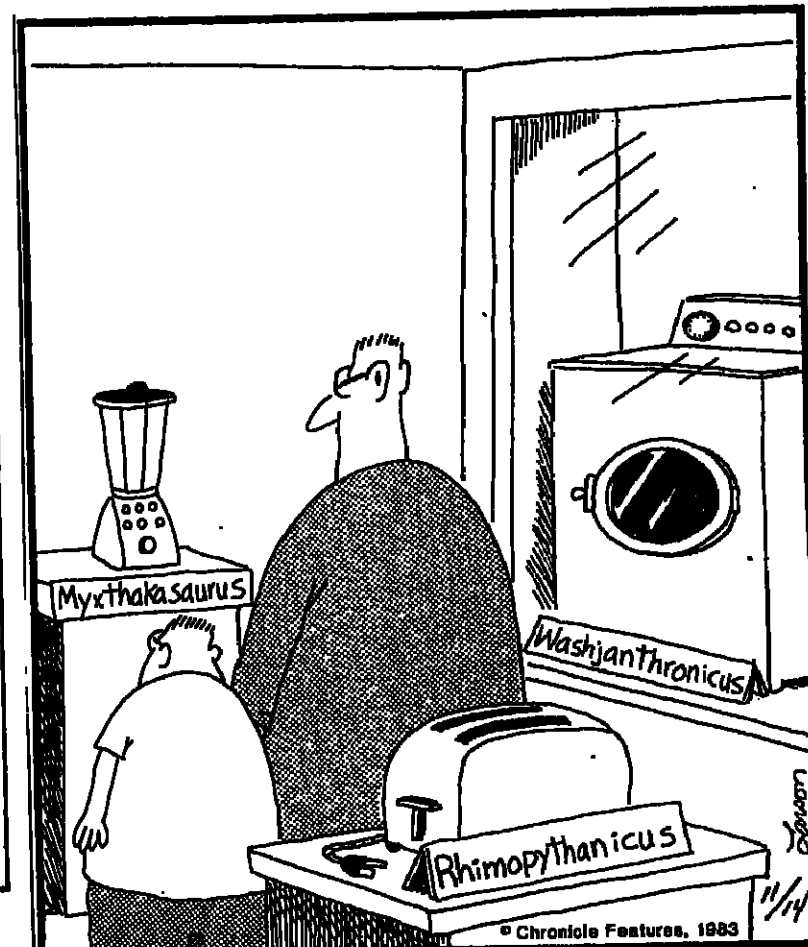


two most intriguing, perhaps, being 'Red Tape' and 'The Tragedy of Hamlet'.

Red Tape features a patient little survivor who wanders through the corridors and offices of power seeking the proper destination for an application form — and where is the Jordanian who won't respond to that theme!

'Hamlet' is a puppet play with the characters of the Shakespeare play taken by the mime's own hands. Hamlet is a black vinyl glove, opheila is lace while a gardener's glove serves for the grave digger.

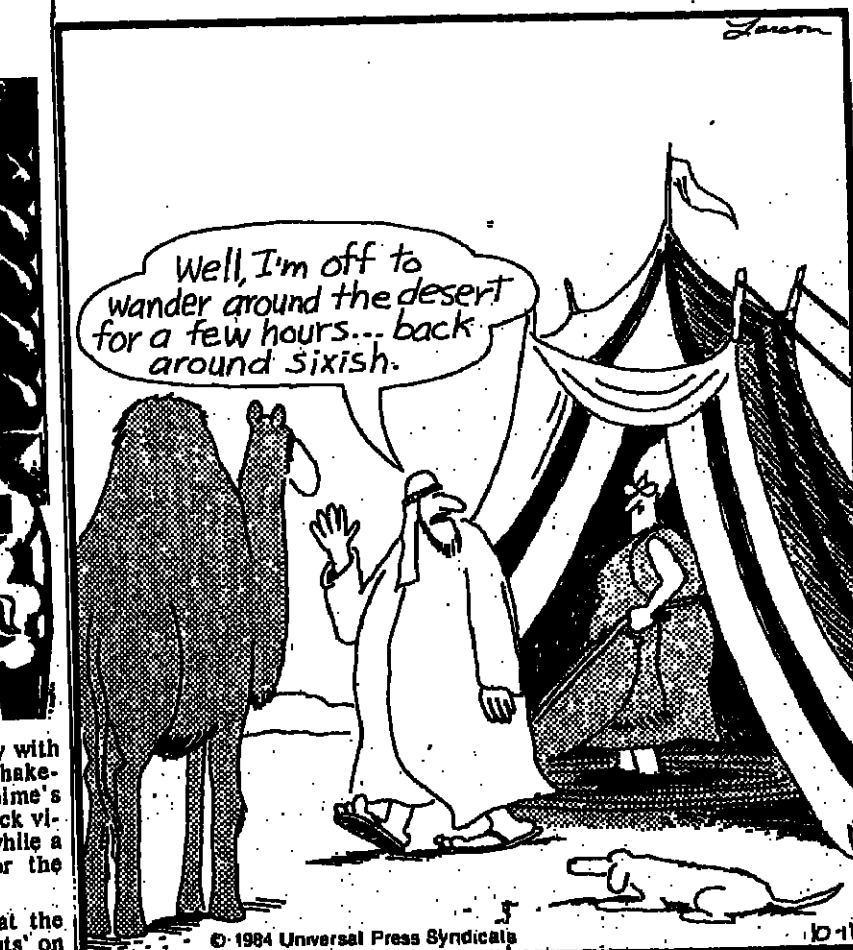
Nola Rae will perform at the RCC in the show 'Upper Cuts' on Saturday, Sunday and Monday, 17, 18 and 19 November at 8.00 pm.



Museums of the future

The Far Side

By GARY LARSON



The restless life of the nomad.

THE JERUSALEM STAR 23

Islamic art booms on London market

Wealthy people from the Middle East are showing a new interest in their cultural past. Their purchases have helped to create a London market in Islamic art objects worth an estimated £100 million (\$130 million) a year.

By Neil Harris

AN UNPRECEDENTED surge of interest has developed in Islamic art here and collectors are paying boom prices for ethnic treasures ranging from Persian rugs to Syrian ceramics.

Sotheby's, the auctioneers, currently trades more than £5 million (\$6.5 million) in Islamic art objects a year compared with £200,000 (\$260,000) in 1975. Prices have doubled since 1982, a spokesman said.

Mr. Jack Frances, head of Sotheby's Islamic department, said in an interview that the entire London turnover would be about £100 million (\$130 million) a year, with carpets and rugs accounting for half.

The buyers are mainly wealthy people from the Middle East who have become aware of the vast stockpile of art in Europe and have developed the taste for refined collections. Museum openings in Cairo and Kuwait have probably helped, art experts believe. US museums also have become eager, but selective, buyers since 1980.

There are few clues how much of the newly bought art is flowing back to the Middle East and how much is being stocked in the European homes of wealthy Arabs or well-off families who fled Iran and Lebanon.

One dealer said a Middle East client asked for his purchases to stay indefinitely in the London gallery.

Mr. Alistair Duncan, director of London's World of Islam Festival Trust, said private Middle East collectors may be spreading their purchases across many homes but could eventually turn them into collections in their native lands.

"The people who are buying are descendants of bedouins, merchants and travellers," he said. "Having houses here, houses there, is the pattern of their lives."

"Even if they are squirrelling away great art in bank vaults, I would like to think that in 15 years' time, they will want their names as collectors to live on."

Frances said the price boom has affected everything from 12th century Persian glass to



One of the Turkish made lanterns used to illuminate the mosques in the sixteenth century

19th century Tabriz silk, from Ottoman tiles and 13th century Syrian tiles to maps, pottery and weapons.

A huge Sotheby's auction in 1982 netted £1.3 million (\$1.7 million), then a world record for Islamic art, with its centrepiece, a 17th century Persian carpet of silk and metal thread made for Polish aristocrats, fetching £231,000 (\$300,000).

"Today," Mr. Frances said, "the carpet would fetch £500,000 (\$650,000)."

Oliver Hoare, formerly Islamic specialist for Christie's auctioneers, said a 9-sided candlestick from 13th century Syria changed hands at Christie's in 1971 for £3,400 (\$4,420); it would now bring 30 times that price.

Frances hopes to stage an Islamic auction in Saudi Arabia this winter, the first of its kind there, which would be publicly televised (though licensing problems may force its transfer to Bahrain). He saw it as part of an "awareness" campaign to institute a flowback of the enormous stock of Islamic art at present in Europe.

A factor in the Islamic surge, experts believe, has been the buying activity of Sheikh Nasser Sabah al-Ahmed al-Sabah, 37-year-old nephew of the Ruler of Kuwait, for his Museum of

Islamic Art in the Gulf Sheikhdom.

The museum began as a personal collection and ended eight years and 20,000 objects later as possibly the best Islamic teaching museum in the world.

Hoare, who left Christie's to run the exclusive Ahran gallery, believes the boom has barely begun.

"Prices will go through the roof," he said. "Islamic art is still cheap compared to European medieval art."

He believes political traumas had changed the market. In Syria an ethos existed against great individual wealth, and many of its rich had scattered, like the Lebanese.

"Politics eliminated Beirut as a place you could go to for gossip and ideas," he said.

But the reopening of Egypt's Islamic museum after renovation and the high prices paid by Turkish collectors in Istanbul for their own art was encouraging.

Bashir Mohamed, son of Pakistani parents from Malaysia, said more Arabs were becoming interested in their traditional culture.

"There are very few tutored Arabs in the market as yet," he said. "But they are beyond the stage of cars and yachts and are being drawn to their own culture."

Compass News Service



All Things Considered

Royce Abu Jassae

Where there is smoke, there is cigarette

I SEE an increasing number of no-smoking signs around town. They are stuck on the doors of offices, in public transports, and neat little white plastic ones sit on the desks of important and influential people. This has given rise to my fervent hope that they indicate an increased awareness of the dangers of smoking to health.

But still, not everyone is convinced that smoking is dangerous. Some of these people, when they hear about what nicotine can do to the human lungs, counter with stories of an old man who lived in their neighbourhood and smoked 50 cigarettes a day since he was nine years old. Invariably, this old man lived to the age of 120 years, thus his life is given as counterproof that smoking is not harmful. We can't deny that there are exceptional individuals with a state of health robust enough to resist, or compensate for the damage done by smoking. This fabulous old man might have also walked twenty kilometres a day which acted to keep his respiratory system in optimum condition in spite of his tobacco intake. He might have been forced to do this out of a lack of any sort of transportation. No one would think of this as a beneficial factor to the state of his health. The question needs to be more fully understood by the general public.

Innumerable studies have been done to prove the detrimental effects of the tars and nicotine that enter the lungs as a result of smoke in the air we breathe. They collect there in the lung tissue, filling up the millions of tiny air pockets, destroying the elasticity of the lungs themselves and minimizing the air flow in and out of the body which in turn brings down the oxygen levels in other parts of the body. The substances themselves are irritating to the lung tissue. Tissue, that constantly under 'attack' from toxic or irritating substances will eventually react to them. If everyone is aware of these facts, then they will be able to make an informed decision as to whether they wish to continue smoking or that they prefer to quit for the sake of their health.

Some individuals will continue to smoke because they enjoy it and are willing to take the risks rather than deny themselves this pleasure. It is their decision and they have the right to make it. But what of those around them? What of the non-smokers who wish to avoid tobacco smoke? What sort of choice do they have?

First of all, they don't pick up a cigarette and light it up because they have decided not to smoke for whatever reason they have. But, are they entirely free from the effects of smoking? No.

They get the second-hand smoke from others whether they want it or not. Non-smoking women who are married to smokers have a 30 per cent higher rate of lung cancer than those who are married to non-smokers. Researchers have placed non-smokers in a room with smokers and then tested their blood to find that the nicotine levels are nearly as high as those who were actively taking in smoke from cigarettes. This has been termed passive smoking. It has the same detrimental effects on the individuals' health. Some people are trying to avoid these effects. They ask a little co-operation from those who do smoke.

Smoke if you want to, but do it in a place where it will not irritate others. Ask first if anyone objects to your smoking before you light up a cigarette. If you see a 'no smoking' sign, obey it.

SALES GIRL WANTED

ROSENTHAL SHOP — Second Circle — Jabel Amman — Needs Sales Girl With Good English and Experience.

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Intimate Starcasts

By Henry Arnold

Week commencing 8 November, 1984

CAPRICORN — December
21st to January 19th



If you put your point of view in a very clear sighted fashion during this coming week, you should find that you will receive extremely good support, plus help, but you will do very well to be completely honest with an associate, and do not try to bluff then with idle chatter. Romantic affairs which may have been up and down of late, should become more steady. A rather meddlesome elderly relative could try to involve you in a dispute.

AQUARIUS — January
20th to February 18th



Always provided that you apply the suggestion of a colleague with diplomacy, this should prove to be very remunerative for you. A close relative could annoy you just a little more than you like this week. Try your best not to give them added ammunition by losing your temper. Financial difficulties now start to settle very amicably. You could receive a very interesting invitation some time during this week.

PISCES — February
19th to March 20th



An interesting new person around you may be the cause for you having to revise your plans now, but on the whole, your week should turn out to be extremely gratifying, especially from the emotional point of view. A near friend may ask you for your help and advice in a family matter. Assist them all you can but don't advise them too strongly. At work, someone of influence could show their past appreciation of your efforts.

ARIES — March
21st to April 20th



You will find during this coming week, that you can now go ahead with less interference, and a weight will be lifted from your mind. Someone close to you, of whom you are very fond, will bring you some very pleasant news. Where an important and difficult decision you may have to make is concerned, you should find that your intuition could be your best friend. You could receive a flattering gift this week.

TAURUS — April
21st to May 20th



All the indications are that you could receive some exciting news which delights you this week, but do not doubt a friend's intentions. A recently formed partnership where business or finances are concerned could bring you in extra cash, in a very useful way now. This is a period to benefit by the influence of another. You would be well advised to try not to make changes during this week, and leave your arrangements to stand as they are.

GEMINI — May
21st to June 20th



Even though you may find yourself having to be firm with a member of the opposite sex, who may prove to be just a little difficult during this coming week, you could, at the same time, receive a gay social offer, which, just providing it does not commit you too much, should prove to be extremely enjoyable. You may find this is an unusually busy week, due to the arrival of a visitor, and you may be tempted to extravagance in entertaining them.

Birthday Greetings to You. Some extra work seems to be necessary as far as business is concerned, but the rewards from this should be sufficient to leave you feeling more than satisfied.

Family matters may give cause for a little concern towards the end of April, but these difficulties, although you have just reason to be worried, are merely minor nervous ramblings and will be overcome by your natural aptitude in tactfully handling people. Always bear in mind that you have a very strong ally in an elderly male relative.

There seems little to worry about healthwise, even though you may have been feeling a little under par of late. It would be wise for you to get as much fresh air and exercise as possible, for a lack of this is not good for your particular sign.

Birthday Greetings to You. The year should bring with it, some excellent opportunities for making new friends and influential contacts. These will be necessary to your work and happiness, and you should also benefit from an unexpected journey in the spring.

During the next few weeks, it may become apparent that a particular member of your family is becoming more and more reliant upon you. This is not good policy for your side, and you would be wise to discourage this or this person may become unable to cope without help from your direction, simply because it has become a habit.

Amongst those of you of the younger generation, there is every possibility of marriage within the next twelve months, and this should be an extremely happy union with little opposition from either side, contrary to what you may at this moment believe.

Birthday Greetings to You. There is every chance that within the next two or three months, you will be offered promotion of a kind. This will be largely due to the influence upon your employers of a tall grey haired man whose initials could be 'H' or 'J'. This person has held you and your work in high esteem for some time and has been waiting an opportunity of just such a kind. Financially, your affairs should become more settled by mid-March.

Personal affairs will be extremely interesting, and in this respect, you should feel more secure than for some time past.

Worries you may have had over some slight distress or allusion should now be eased and it would appear that by the time you reach your next birthday, you will have forgotten your life completely.

Those of you who are eligible for marriage should find a lasting and permanent happiness from a romantic source.

CANCER — June
21st to July 21st



This week should turn out to be an extremely busy one for you, and an older person should please you by approving a decision you may have to make this week. At the same time, be careful not to neglect home commitments, however fully your mind may be occupied on other things. Ask the opinion of a member of the opposite sex, regarding a problem which you may have, for they could give you some very sound advice.

LEO — July
22nd to August 21st



You would be very well advised to give just that little extra thought to your opposite number during this coming week, for they may be feeling just a little on the nervous side, and by so doing, you could avoid any misunderstanding which could occur. A good opportunity to work out a plan may present itself to you during this coming week, but be sure that you have your facts very clear. This is a good period for both action and movement.

VIRGO — August
22nd to September 21st



You would be well advised to try to take advantage of every opportunity you can to relax as much as possible for the sake of your health this week. A friend could put an idea to you for making a little extra money, and in this way, you should be able to see a manner of clearing a few of your problems. A new association may be formed in your private life some time during this week, which will bring you direct gains for the future.

LIBRA — September
22nd to October 22nd



A few delays are likely this coming week, and there could be a minor health condition which might worry you a little early on, so you would be well advised to relax where possible. As the week wears on, you should get cracking with things in a much better way, and find that a dear one is most helpful. There could be quite a lot of talk regarding a future journey for you this week. Where romance is concerned, affairs appear to run very smoothly.

SCORPIO — October
23rd to November 21st



This week could be rather chaotic from the financial point of view, and being impulsive will result in a loss. Things appear to be looking up for you in the romantic field, but don't push your hopes too fast, or you could unsettle things a little. Affairs may have been rather trying in your working life just recently, but now is the time to use your personality to bring a brighter atmosphere all round. Plan that special treat you have promised a dear one.

SAGITTARIUS — November
22nd to December 20th



Don't say anything that you don't mean just now, or you could very easily find yourself hurting an old friend, and regret it very much. A loved one's suggestions about a new hobby will meet with your approval, but it may turn out to be quite expensive. Your ability to cope in a difficult situation will be noted by a superior and this should help you in furthering ambition. You should find yourself very busy in the social field this week.

Birthday Information Charts

Sunday 11 November

Birthday Greetings to You. This is a year when the indications show that family ties are at their very strongest, and any children born in the family circle during the next twelve months should be extremely talented and clever.

An opportunity to travel and venture further afield than ever before could come your way some time during the coming year. Before coming to a decision regarding this, it may be necessary to seek the advice of an older person who is less biased in their approach than your immediate family.

Career-wise, much success is likely and you should gain much praise for a particular and outstanding job which you have approached in a most capable manner.

Your health should be satisfactory throughout the whole of the coming twelve months, but try not to overexert yourself, particularly during the April to May period.

Birthday Greetings to You. There is every indication that you will be feeling just a little disgruntled and rather tired of the everyday routine of your job. You should not be tempted however, to rush into changes which are not going to benefit you in any way, either progress-wise or financially. Whereas you should not be content to stay in a rut, you should not be prepared to settle for a stop-gap occupation.

During March or April, a pleasant surprise could come your way which should bring with it, some extra cash. This, of course, will please you, but you are likely to overspend during the summer, which could well outweigh the benefit of this financial gain.

It may seem rather stupid but the young ones amongst you would be wise to watch out for rheumatism and this could be apparent during February or March. Otherwise, in general, without any doubt, your health should improve.

Birthday Greetings to You. Your natural vitality and energy are a wonderful asset, but during the next few weeks, it may be necessary to curb this just a little, or you may find yourself flagging, and with things as they are at the moment, work-wise, this would be an unwise risk to take. A colleague who has become rather involved in their personal life may lean to you for help more and more, and although your natural instinct should tell you not to become involved, your good heartedness may do just this.

Your career should be given a boost by the middle of March, and will prove that all your past efforts have been worthwhile. Your popularity with your employers has never been better, and you could find yourself in a position to ask for improvements which you may think necessary.

Birthday Greetings to You. You have a latent talent which has not been encouraged for a great deal of time, and there is around you a person of some intelligence and ability who is most anxious to encourage you to use this gift. Self discipline will be necessary if you are to excel in any way in this sphere, but this could prove rewarding, both mentally and in a surprising material way.

By the time you have reached the end of May, your social life should be brighter than it has been for some time past, and you may find it necessary to weed out the better of your invitations in order to get some much needed rest.

News of a very old friend should bring with it a good deal of happiness some time during the April period.

Even if you have been feeling a little off colour this should not continue, as the indications are that your health should show much improvement during the coming year.

THE JERUSALEM STAR 25

Herb gnocchi

Ingredients

- 200 grammes (can use frozen)
- 50 grammes parsley, chopped
- pinch of tarragon and chervil
- 25 grammes butter
- 100 grammes cream cheese
- 50 grammes cheddar cheese, grated
- 25 grammes Parmesan cheese
- 2 eggs
- 4 tbs flour
- pinch of nutmeg, salt and pepper

Method

- If using fresh spinach, wash and boil it until soft
- Drain, pressing out any liquid
- Chop the spinach finely and add the parsley and herbs
- Stir this puree over a low heat, to dry out
- Add the butter, cream and cheddar cheese with Parmesan and beat well into the spinach
- Remove from the heat
- Beat the eggs and stir into mixture
- Beat in the flour, until overnight
- With floured hands form the mixture into walnut sized balls
- Drop in batches into boiling salted water, they will float to the surface when ready
- Remove to hot serving dish, with a slotted spoon
- Dot with butter and serve very hot with additional grated Parmesan

Corner Chef's

Handwritten signature or note in the right margin.

The Nail

One be the nail another the pincers
The others are workmen
The pincers take the nail by the head
With their teeth with their hands
they grip him

And tug him tug
To get him out of the ceiling
Usually they only pull his head off
It's difficult to get a nail out of the ceiling

Then the workmen say
The pincers are no good
They smash their jaws they break
their arms
And throw them out of the window

After that someone else be the pincers
Someone else the nail
The others are workmen
Vaska Popa

Yugoslavian poem translated from the
Serbo-Croatian by Anne Pennington



SEND your stories, pictures, jokes or ideas to: Star Kids, Jerusalem Star, P.O. Box 591, Amman, with your name, age, school, address, and include your size, small, medium or large.

Hamed and the villagers

Hamdan Al-Haj

ONCE UPON a time, in a small village, there lived a good and modest farmer called Hamed. He used to help other farmers harvesting their crops and participate in any charitable work in his village.

Hamed's son, Majid, went to school in the near village. On his holidays, he used to help his father working on the farm, digging and picking the kernels out of the soil. He was trying by all means to show his father how good he was working on the farm and convince him of his being a land-lover.

One day, after they finished working, they headed towards their house which lay far from the farm.

As there was only one donkey, the father asked his son to ride on its back and walked in front of it. While they were passing by the villagers, young boys, old women and men were laughing and saying, "look, the father is

walking while the son is riding instead of doing the opposite." Hearing the villagers' laughs and shouts, Hamed immediately asked his son to step down and he jumped on the back of the donkey. Seeing this other villagers began to shout and laugh louder than before and said, "look, the old man is riding on the back of the donkey, while the poor young boy leads it. It is really embarrassing."

Hearing all that, the father stepped down and walked in front of the donkey side by side with his son. At that moment, all villagers, Hamed and his son passed by, were astonished to watch that scene and said, "Look, they are walking and leading a strong donkey, they are really idiots."

At once, the father told his son that to obtain the satisfaction of all people is one of the impossible achievements in this world and went on their way home paying no attention to the people's sayings.



Mary the monkey is clinging on to life with the help of kindly Carole Petrie. Abandoned by her real mother, Mary has become a kind of foster child to Carole, whose husband runs Southport Zoo in Lancashire.

ODDITIES



Australian Aborigines and their boomerangs

Why a boomerang returns to the thrower?

THE BOOMERANG, which is used by the aborigines, or natives, of certain parts of Australia, is a wonderfully effective weapon when thrown with skill. It is a curved blade of hard wood weighing about half-a-pound, from two to three feet in length, generally quite flat on one side and slightly convex on the other. The name "boomerang," which is a native word, would lead one to expect that it booms when travelling through the air, but it makes rather a whistling noise.

There are two kinds of boomerang, one which does not return to the sender when thrown — and this variety is used in war, but it is the other sort we think of when we speak of a "boomerang flight." These hunting boomerangs are thrown with a peculiar twist and, after describing a circle, come back to the thrower. This is due to the shape of the weapon, one arm of which offers more resistance to the air than the other portion, causing it to travel in a curved path after it has slowed down below a certain rate of speed.

A skilled thrower has been known to make his boomerang travel more than two hundred yards, and even to cause it to return to him after striking the ground, but in the ordinary way, if the object aimed at is hit, the weapon does not fly back. It can accomplish this only after a clear flight.

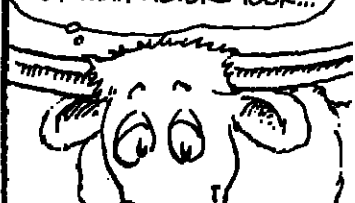
it's a record

RAREST RODENT IS PROBABLY THE LITTLE EARTH MIA OF JUAN GARCIA CAY, AN ISLET OFF CUBA. IT HAS NOT BEEN RECORDED SINCE ITS DISCOVERY IN 1970.



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NEED CINEMASCOPE TO GET MAH PICTURE TOOK...



Queen Noor inaugurates basketball tournament

AMMAN (Star) — Al-Hussein Birthday Cup basketball tournament will open here today. The tournament which is organized by the Orthodox and Ahli clubs will be inaugurated at the Sports City Stadium by Her Majesty Queen Noor at 4 pm on Thursday.

Apart from the teams from Amman, Ahli Club from West Bank and the Youth Club from West Bank are participating in the tournament. In the opening match at 4 pm Al Ahli (Cairo) will meet Al-Ahli (Jordan).

Following is the schedule:
Friday: Orthodox club Vs Al-Ahli (Jordan) at 3 pm.
Alhi (Cairo) Vs (West Bank) Youth Club at 10.30 am.
Orthodox club Vs Ahli (Jordan) at 5 pm.

Saturday: Ahli (Jordan) Vs Youth Club at 4 pm.
Alhi (Cairo) Vs Orthodox club at 6 pm.

Sunday: Ahli (Cairo) Vs Orthodox club (Women) at 4 pm.



There will be a demonstration match for men at 5.30 pm.

Jordan car rally starts on Friday

AMMAN (Star) — The third Jordan rally will commence tomorrow, Friday, from the Royal Automobile Club (RAC). His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah bin Al-Hussein is participating in this rally and about 27 other contestants are also taking part. This was stated by the official spokesman, Majid al-Nashashid.

The rally which will be in two stages first in the morning and the other in the evening, is expected to finish at 4.30 pm.

The tracks selected are alongside the airport road and hence the rally will be less hazardous. All participating vehicles are equipped with safety elements.

Amman club tops in Jordanian soccer tournament



Jordanian soccer — a tussle scene from a recent match.

AMMAN (Star) — The first leg of the Jordanian soccer tournament will come to an end tomorrow with three concluding matches which are to be played in Irbid, Amman and Zarqa on Friday. Amman Club tops the 12 club round-robin tournament. Following is Friday's schedule:
Wihdat Vs al-Hussein (Irbid)
Ramtha Vs Amman Club (Amman)
Qoqasi Vs Al-Arabi (Zarqa)

Everton leads in English soccer

AMMAN (Star) — The English soccer entered the 14th week with eleven matches to be played during the week. Competition is at its climax and there will be a tough contest among the leading teams Everton, Arsenal and Manchester United. Stoke and Watford are fighting to make it with the other teams ranking in the middle (Leicester, Coventry, Luton, Queens Park and Aston Villa).

Following is the schedule for the week —
1. Arsenal (25) Vs Aston Villa (15)
2. Coventry (12) Vs Ipswich (16)
3. Westham (22) Vs Everton (26)
4. Leicester (12) Vs Manchester United (23)

5. Liverpool (17) Vs Southampton (20)
6. Newcastle (8) Vs Chelsea (19)
7. Norwich (16) Vs Luton (13)
8. Nottingham (18) Vs Tottenham (22)
9. Queens Park (14) Vs Sheffield (21)
10. Watford (9) Vs Sunderland (20)
11. West Bromwich (16) Vs Stoke (7)

German Soccer:
NEXT SUNDAY marks the beginning of the 12th week of the German soccer tournament. Bayern Munich leads with 18 points followed by Bremen and Kaiser Slautern with 13 points each.

Asian cup soccer final round commences next month

AMMAN (Star) — The final leg of Asian cup soccer tournament will open early next month in Singapore. The participating ten teams have been divided into two groups. Following is the schedule:

1 December	Qatar Vs Syria	Iran Vs UAE
2 December	Saudi Arabia Vs South Korea	Singapore Vs India
3 December	Kuwait Vs Qatar	China Vs Iran
4 December	Syria Vs Saudi Arabia	Singapore Vs China
5 December	South Korea Vs Kuwait	Iran Vs India
7 December	Syria Vs South Korea	Singapore Vs UAE
8 December	Qatar Vs Saudi Arabia	China Vs India
9 December	Kuwait Vs Syria	Singapore Vs Iran
10 December	Korea Vs Qatar	China Vs UAE
11 December	Kuwait Vs Saudi Arabia	
13 December	First semi final	
14 December	Second semi final	
16 December	Final and matches to decide third and fourth positions	

US National basketball roundup

NEW YORK (AP) — Houston Rockets coach Bill Fitch says the Kansas City Kings came at his unbeaten team like we were the world champs.

Akeem Olajuwon scored 23 points and reserve forward Robert Reid got 16 of his 22 points in the fourth quarter Tuesday night to lead the rockets past the winless Kings 108-94. The victory boosted Houston's record to 5-0 — the best start in the 18-year history of the franchise. It's important to get out of the blocks and build confidence, Fitch said. A team like Kansas City came at us like we were the world champs and we met that challenge.

In other NBA games, Dallas shook New York 107-104. San Antonio stopped Seattle 99-91. Denver shelled the Los Angeles Lakers 146-130, and Portland beat Phoenix 116-99. Houston lead 49-46 at halftime and then scored six straight points late in the third quarter in taking a 79-72 margin going into the final period.

Reid then put on a jump-shot exhibition, scoring eight points in the first 3:14 of the fourth quarter to give the Rockets a comfortable 89-74 cushion. Eddie Johnson lead Kansas city

with 17 points. Mavericks 107, Knicks 104.

Jay Vincent, who scored 33 points, hit a 20-foot shot with 34 seconds left to break a 104-104 tie and Rolando Blackman made a free throw with 11 seconds remaining as Dallas withstood a barrage of last-second New York misses. Bernard King, who had 31 points for the visiting Knicks, and Louis Orr each missed shots at tying field goals after Vincent's basket. Three New York players missed three-point attempts after Blackman's foul shot.

Spurs 99, Supersonics 91. Artis Gilmore scored 20 points and grabbed 15 rebounds to spark San Antonio, which used a decisive 14-1 burst in the fourth quarter. The spurs held Seattle to just 11 points in the final period in turning an 82-81 deficit into a 95-83 lead. Mike Mitchell added 19 points for the Host Spurs, while Tom Chambers had 26 and Al Wood 20 for the Sonics. Nuggets 146, Lakers 130.

Alex English tallied 28 points, Calvin Natt got 27 and Lafayette Lever contributed 24 points and 18 assists to lead high-scoring Denver. Earvin Magic Johnson

scored 19 points for Los Angeles but had to leave the game with 10:56 to play after being elbowed in the eye.

The visiting Nuggets led 66-63 at halftime and increased the margin to 110-95 entering the fourth quarter. Trail Blazers 116, Suns 99. Kiki Vandeweghe scored 29 points as Portland took the lead for good early in the game to beat Phoenix, which had opened the season with a team-record five straight victories.

Vandeweghe, who scored 12 points in the first quarter and 12 more in the third period, hit an 18-foot jumper to put the trail Blazers in front 10-9 and they never trailed again. Mychal Thompson scored 18 points for Portland while Alvan Adams had 16 for the visiting Suns.

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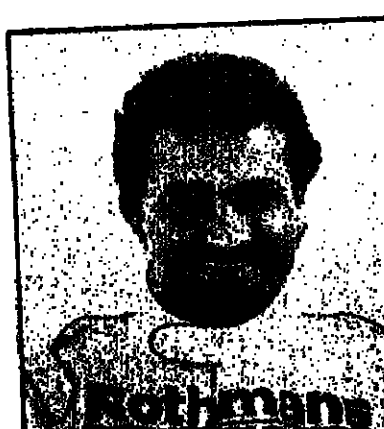
China wins women's volleyball

HONG KONG (AP) — Olympic Champion China trounced the United States 15-2, 15-4, 15-7 Tuesday for its third straight victory and won the world super women's volleyball tournament.

It was the third defeat for the Americans, who fielded only several players from the team that won the silver medal at the Los Angeles games this year.

In the other match Tuesday, South Korea beat Japan 15-10, 15-13, 15-5 and finished second with two victories in the four-team competition. The Japanese beat the Americans 15-1, 15-0, 15-5 on Monday for their sole victory.

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Said al-Hijri — He along with his assistant John Spiller won the Oman car rally and Middle East championship last week in their Porsche 911.

Tennis results

WEMBLEY, England (AP) — Results of Wednesday's matches in the \$315,000 Benson and Hedges tennis championships (seeded players in brackets) are: First round: Peter Fleming, US defeated Joao Soares, Brazil, 6-3, 6-2. Vilas Gerulaitis (8), US defeated Vijay Amritraj, India, 4-6, 6-4, 6-4. Second round: Cassio Motta, Brazil, defeated Henrik Sundstrom, Sweden (6), Sweden, 6-2, 6-4.

Stone-Age Kids

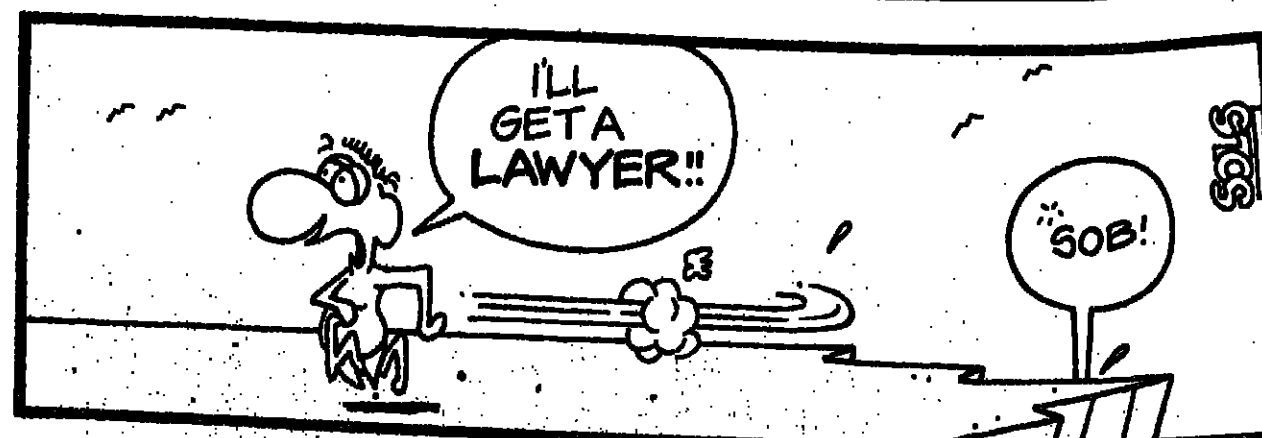
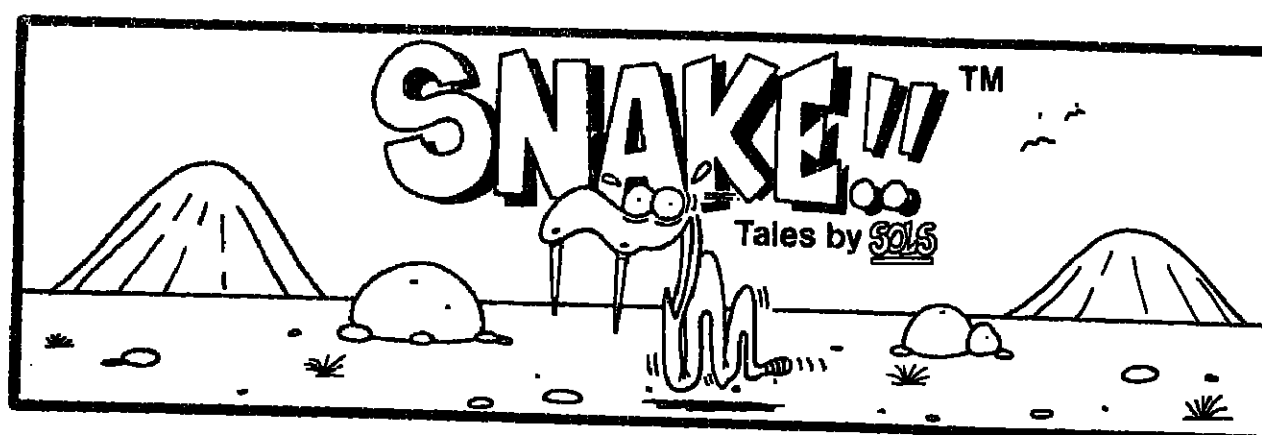
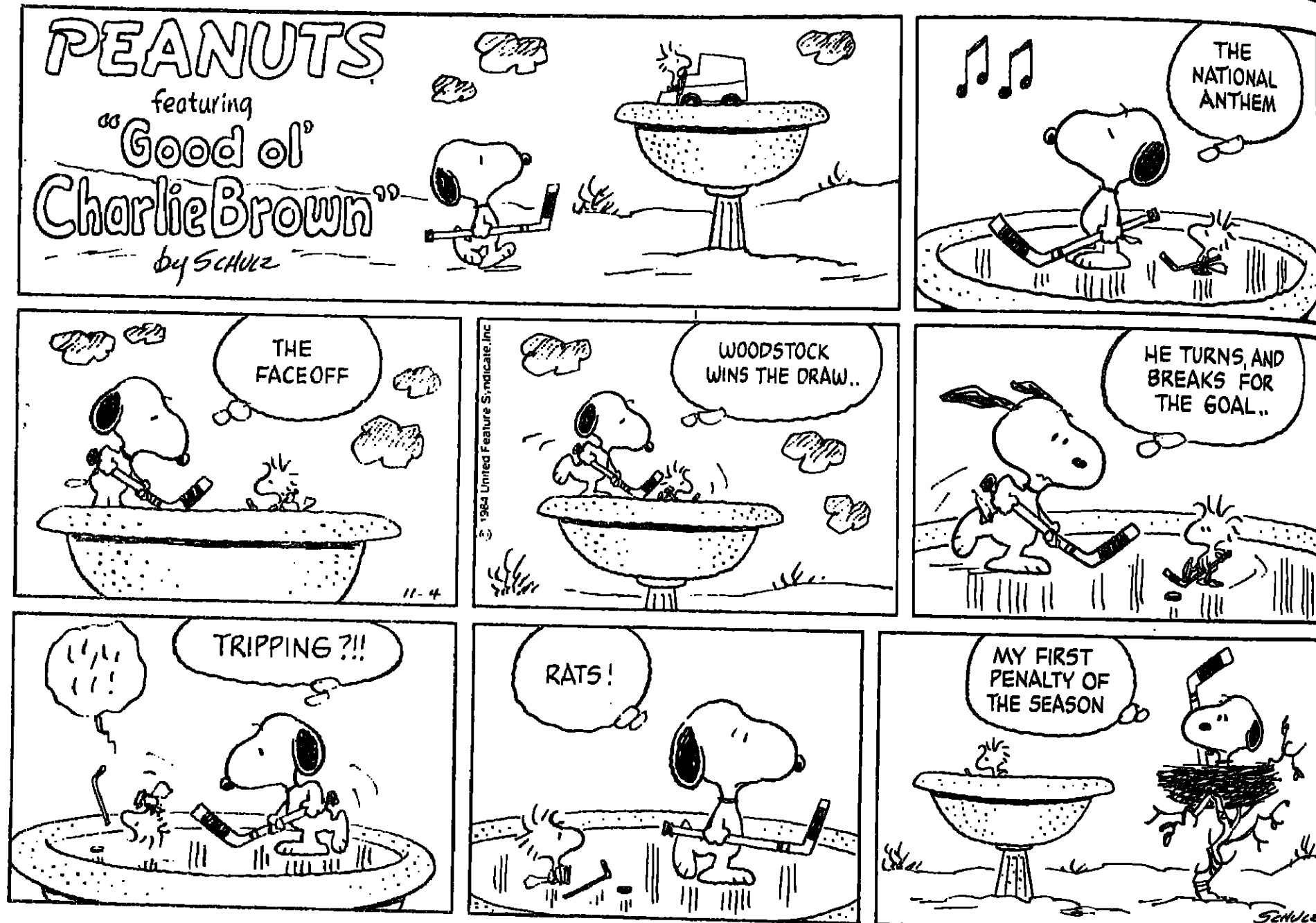
Spot the Difference
1. Peak of mountain in background is higher.
2. An extra cloud appears.
3. A branch of tree is missing.
4. Window of house in background is cut lower revealing more of roof.
5. Window of house in background is cut lower revealing more of roof.
6. Cupboard in kitchen is missing.
7. Bird in tree is missing.
8. Bird in tree is missing.
9. Bird in tree is missing.
10. Bird in tree is missing.



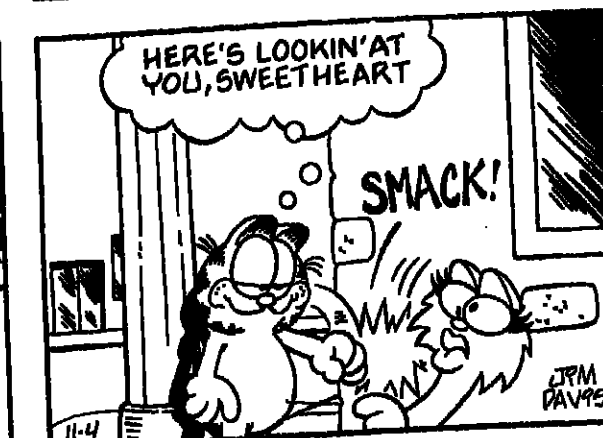
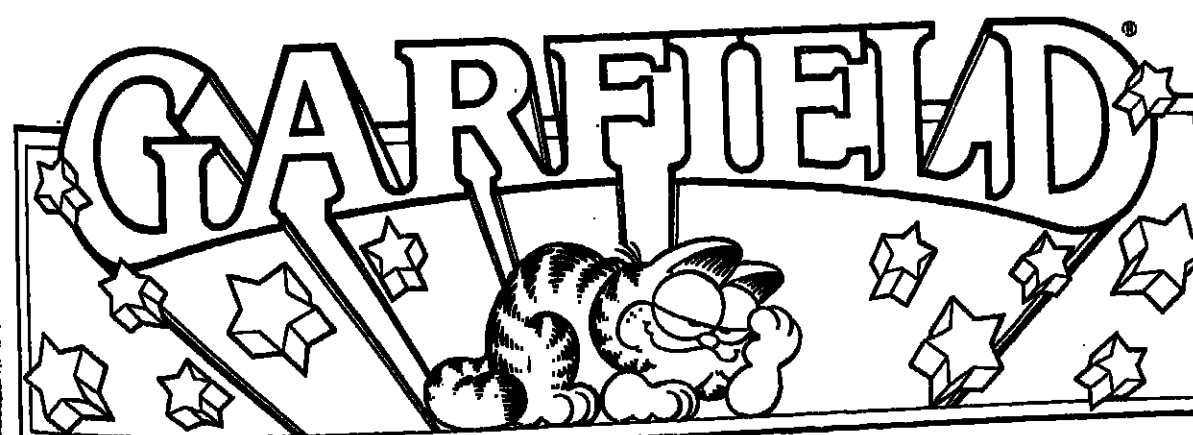
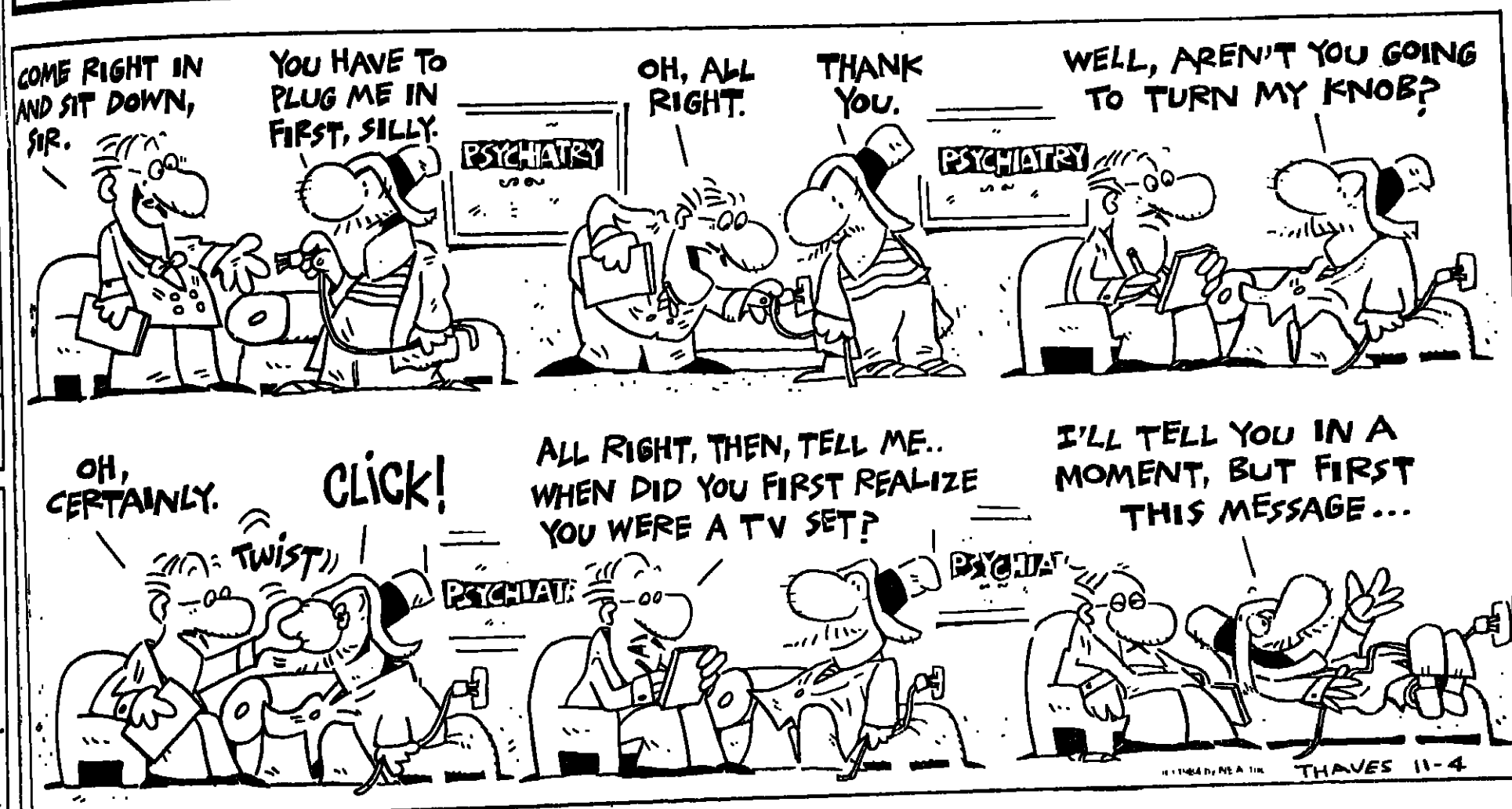
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PEANUTS

featuring
"Good ol'
Charlie Brown"
by SCHULZ



FRANK & ERNEST



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